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## Black mark for half of primaries

# Back-to-basics demand as schools fail

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

HALF of all primary schools and four out of ten secondaries are falling below acceptable standards, the Chief Inspector of Schools said yesterday in a critical annual report demanding an overhaul of teaching methods.

Chris Woodhead pointed to widespread literacy and numeracy problems, and called for greater use of streaming according to ability — although he stopped short of demanding a wholesale return to traditional teaching.

His report confirmed weaknesses identified in last month's poor test results for 11-year-olds and Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, immediately announced that school league tables for the age group would be published next year.

Mrs Shephard, who resigned the move a fortnight ago, said the level of concern was such that performance tables had become a priority. "It seems to me that after these two sets of evidence about what primary schools are producing, we have to make sure that they are being made fully accountable and that the results are transparent for all to see."

Primary schools were the main targets for criticism in yesterday's report, which is based on 4,500 inspections by the Office for Standards in Education. Mr Woodhead said that basic numeracy and literacy remained causes for concern, together with the teaching of children between the ages of seven and 14.

"mediocre or poor" in many junior schools, with too little use made of phonics, a traditional method which involves sounding out letters. In mathematics, number work was neglected and progress was "disappointing".

Mr Woodhead said there were twice as many excellent teachers as poor ones, but he stood by his previous estimate that 15,000 were incompetent and should be sacked if they could not be retrained. Those teaching the four years

of junior school, between seven and 11, often had insufficient knowledge of their subjects, and throughout the primary sector, many teachers should be made of "whole school teaching" alongside the traditional teaching that provided three-quarters of the primary school day.

Mr Woodhead also called for more grouping by ability — only 4 per cent of primary school lessons were streamed, compared with 60 per cent in secondary schools.

The proportion of junior school lessons judged unsatisfactory dropped from 30 per cent to 21 per cent, but Ofsted said that last year's high figure came from only 80 inspections. Junior schools were still producing more unsatisfactory and fewer ex-

cellent lessons than other sectors.

Mrs Woodhead's report named 200 highly successful schools inspected in the past year. Two-thirds of the "outstanding" secondary schools were selective and a third of all the secondaries listed had "opted out".

Mrs Shephard said that the "success stories" should be congratulated and held out as an example to all, but there was still a long way to go. David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, described the report as a very serious indictment of the Government's record on primary schools. "The difficulties being faced particularly by seven to 11-year-olds highlight the need for strong action at this level."

Union leaders meanwhile insisted that it was "wrong and simplistic" to blame teachers for the problems. They pointed to pressures on teachers to teach a "disappearing curriculum" for poor standards. They pointed to "disadvantaged children, uncaring parents and limited resources."

The National Union of Teachers also criticised Mrs Shephard's plans to publish performance tables for 11-year-olds. Doug McAvoy, the general secretary, said: "Parents have a right to receive information about the quality of education their children receive. Snapshot inspections and crude league tables do not provide this."

The National Association for Primary Education said league tables would have a seriously damage standards.



Gillian Shephard ordered league tables after double indictment of junior schools

## Blizzards warning as snow sweeps over Britain

By RUSSELL JENKINS AND GILLIAN BOWDITCH

SNOW was being driven by high winds across much of Britain last night and motorists warned to prepare for a hazardous journey to work today.

Weather forecasters said the snow would settle and temperatures would hover around zero until the end of the week, when another weather front gathering over the Atlantic may bring further snow.

The big chill is arriving from the west where a "typical" Atlantic system has been sucking in south-easterly winds from the Continent. The London Weather Centre said: "We expect most places, with the exception of East Anglia and parts of Kent, to have some snow by this morning."

The storms, increasing to blizzards in some areas, began yesterday in Scotland, Wales and Dartmoor and Exmoor and moved south and eastwards throughout the night. Weather warnings were issued for Lancashire, Wales and the South West.

In Scotland, many mountain routes were declared impassable, with Dumfries and Galloway the worst affected. Falkirk and Stirling in Central region also had heavy snow and a number of roads across the country were blocked, including the northbound carriageway of the M74 from Carlisle to Glasgow. The AA described conditions as treacherous.

Wales was also badly affected, with the Horseshoe Pass in Clwyd, and the Rhigos, Bwlch, Maerdy and Llanwrnon mountain roads in Mid-Glamorgan all impassable. Many rural roads in Dyfed, Powys and Clwyd were also hit.

Thousands of children in Scotland, Wales and Cumbria were sent home and all

schools in the Rhondda Valley were closed.

Nuclear workers spent the night at the Sellafield complex in West Cumbria because show drifts prevented them getting home. All roads south to Barrow had drifts up to 6 ft deep and trains were unable to use the coastal line to the Furness area.

In Falkirk, Sheriff Albert Sheehan was so concerned that a 60-year-old vagrant would perish in the freezing conditions that he passed a prison sentence on humanitarian grounds. John Bain, who has lived rough for eight years, was jailed for 60 days after admitting a breach of the peace. Sheriff Sheehan said: "If I don't send him to prison, he will walk out of here into that weather which is going to get worse."

MPs and agencies representing vulnerable groups, including Age Concern and Help the Aged, meanwhile renewed their demands for changes to the Government's cold weather payments system, which they believe is unfair and unpredictable.

Photograph and Forecast, page 24



## US warns China over war games

The Clinton Administration warned China yesterday that planned military exercises in the Strait opposite Taiwan would aggravate tension and lead to political instability in the region.

Washington believes the exercises, intended as a method of intimidation before Taiwan's presidential elections in March, may be, at least as large as, last September's, which involved 40 ships and 100 aircraft. **Pages 15, 19**

## Ashdown writ

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, began libel proceedings against the *Western Daily Press*, which published allegations about his personal life. On Thursday defendant in a case of assault on Mr Ashdown is likely to ask for reporting restrictions to be lifted. **Page 2**

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## BBC in injury time push to keep big sports events

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND ALICE THOMSON

THE BBC launched a fierce last-minute campaign yesterday to prevent Britain's biggest sporting events being broadcast only on satellite television.

As peers prepared for a knife-edge Lords vote on television sport, senior BBC figures pledged to spend more on sport to compete against satellite companies. Rees will vote tonight on Broadcasting Bill amendments aimed at keeping listed sports events like the FA Cup, Grand National and the Olympics on terrestrial television.

A large all-party group of peers is lining up to support an amendment which would

ensure that eight listed events cannot be shown exclusively on subscription channels such as those operated by BSkyB. Senior government sources concede that the vote will be extremely tight and that the outcome may depend on the worsening weather which is likely to prevent many peers from attending.

Last night Will Wyatt, managing director of BBC network television, took the unusual step of briefing journalists at the Commons on the BBC's plans for sports coverage. He said that, as well as protecting listed events, terrestrial stations should have the rights to buy highlights of non-listed events, such as the golf Ryder Cup or the rugby union Five Nations' Championship, if a

subscription channel bought exclusive live coverage. Conceding that the BBC faced new pressures when bidding for sporting contracts, Mr Wyatt said that there would be much more money made available, although he refused to specify the amount.

In a letter to *The Times* today, six senior executives of Britain's sports bodies strongly defend BSkyB's involvement, saying that it had broken "the cosy terrestrial duopoly", increased the financial benefits to sport and heightened media coverage.

Labour peers are optimistic they can defeat the Government but they concede that the weather may prove crucial.

Letters, page 19

## MPs' pay inquiry to be announced

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

A WIDE-RANGING independent inquiry into the pay, allowances and pensions of MPs and ministers is expected to be announced by the Government today.

The Senior Salaries Review Body, which already recommends pay levels for judges, senior civil servants and top military officers, is likely to be asked to report by June.

The announcement of the investigation by the body, led by Sir Michael Perry, head of Unilever, follows discussions over the past few days between the party leaderships and reflects their wish to defuse the present controversy over their salaries.

MPs have been accused by poverty groups of political

insensitivity but most of them believe that pay must be improved if their parties are to attract parliamentary candidates of quality. While average pay has risen by 80 per cent over 30 years, MPs' salaries have remained static.

However, if the inquiry reports in the summer and recommends substantial rises, the Government is likely to face a difficult decision over whether to accept it in full, urge restraint or leave MPs to decide on it. In the past the Commons has overruled the Government's call for caution, most recently over a big increase in allowances in 1993.

Labour is keen for any decisions on pay to be taken before the General Election.

## Colombo stumped as teams lose their nerve

By JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE cricket World Cup was thrown into turmoil yesterday when the West Indies joined Australia in asking that their games in Sri Lanka should be rescheduled because of fears for the safety of their teams.

With the 12-nation tournament being held in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and the Indian section due to start on Sunday, the organisers are trying to balance the demands of the visiting teams and of the Sri Lankan Government. Colombo is outraged by the Australian and West Indian attitude.

After the terrorist bomb attack in Colombo last week that devastated the centre of the capital and killed more than 80 people, and injured 1,400, Australia asked Pilcom, the three-country organising committee, to reschedule their match on February 17. When they refused, the Australians decided to forfeit the match.

The Australian action was followed by the West Indies Board of Control which asked for their fixture in Colombo, on February 25, to be moved to either India or Pakistan for the "safety and peace of mind" of their players.

The Sri Lankans have offered tight

security of the sort usually reserved for heads of state if the two teams change their decision. Neither Zimbabwe nor Kenya, the other two nations due to play matches in Sri Lanka, have made any announcement about not fulfilling their fixtures.

Denis Rogers, the chairman of the Australian Cricket Board said there were legitimate fears for player safety, despite assurances from the Sri Lankan Government that maximum security would be provided to the teams and officials.

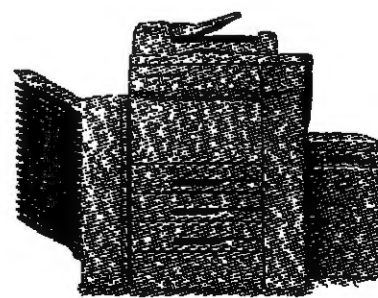
Lakshman Kadirgamar, the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, said he had no sympathy for Shane Warne, the

Australian leg-spinner, who said the team could be victims of a bomb if they went shopping. "There is no use going shopping in Colombo for a one-day match. Shopping is for sissies."

Mr Kadirgamar also said the Australians, if they wanted to, could stay in India or the Maldives instead of Colombo. Helicopters would fly them from the international airport to their hotel, 21 miles away, and on the day of the match. Even the route from the hotel to the nearby Premadasa Stadium would be declared out of bounds.

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# Questions move shamelessly from legover to rollover

It's official. Don't buy Edwina Currie's latest book, *Madam Speaker*, says so. Tony Banks (Lab, Newham NW) started the trouble. Raising a point of order after questions yesterday, he asked the chair: "Is there anything you can do to dissuade Honourable Members of this House from writing works of fiction about our proceedings?"

There is a book, that is currently being sold, written by the Hon Member for Derbyshire S (Mrs Currie) which more or less suggests that this place is full of Members drinking themselves into oblivion and bonking their eyeballs out.

Unfortunately this isn't the case (laughter) and I do feel that we need to be protected from such unfounded allegations. There was a murmur of sympathy — as much, we regret to report, from her colleagues as from Labour.

Miss Boothroyd herself has surely not combed *A Woman's Place* for personal references. There can therefore be no connection between the answer she gave Mr Banks and the page in Mrs Currie's novel where the Commons Speaker is described as calling time after questions "like a Northern barmaid". So how would she reply to Banks?

"Don't buy it," she shrieked, "and don't read it."

If I have any sense of Currie's instinct for publicity, this will appear on the sleeve of the paperback edition of *A Woman's Place*, by Edwina Currie. "Tacky" — *Evening Standard*. "Don't buy it, don't read it" — *Madam Speaker*. It isn't the bonking or boozing stories that really infuriate Mrs Currie's colleagues. It's the fact that she's earning greater fame and more money than they, doing what they do but more shamelessly.

In Currie's spectacular talent for self-promotion they recognise what they, too, crave: but more timidly. What enrages more than a caricature of ourselves? Sadly, Currie herself was not in the chamber for these jollities. Had the subject for Questions Arts and National Heritage driven her away? Did she perhaps fear an unfavourable comparison with Proust? She need not have feared. We move from legover to rollover. These days, MPs have virtually given up serious discussion of the arts, sport, or national heritage in their questions to the Secretary of State.

As elsewhere in Britain, nobody discusses anything but the National Lottery. Television viewers without satellite dishes may face a black-out on major sporting events; the Royal Opera may face a funding meltdown; galleries and museums cry out for cash; and the Greeks want the Elgin Marbles back... but all

MPs want to talk about is scratchcards, double-rollovers and Mystic Meg.

Of the 27 questions down for answer yesterday, questions 57, 1217, 20, 2225, and 27 were about the lottery. Even the man who started it, Peter Brooke, the former Heritage Secretary, is getting nervous. Yesterday he asked his successor, Virginia Bottomley, whether "she feels pleasure at, or concern about, the fact that more than half the questions on the order paper are about the National Lottery?"

Mrs Bottomley took this vinegar for wine, and burbled merrily away about what an immense success the Lottery was.

But then you could hand Mrs Bottomley a sackful of jelly babies and she would burble merrily away about the huge increase in the number of jelly babies under the Conservatives. The more I see of this woman's ability to burble merrily away about anything which comes to hand, the more considerable a political talent I recognise.

## Fraud police poised to launch inquiry into rail claims

By Jonathan Prynn and James Landale

BRITISH Transport Police is prepared to launch a full criminal investigation into allegations of ticket fraud at LTS Rail, the train franchise that was pulled from the brink of privatisation at the weekend.

The force's fraud squad has had talks with British Rail officials who are carrying out an inquiry. Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, told MPs that BR "won't hesitate to call in the British Transport Police if that seems appropriate in the light of their investigations."

MPs were also told that the franchise for the London, Tilbury and Southend line — which had gone to a management buyout team — may be put out to tender again. Sir George said the decision would be taken by Roger Salmon, who is the franchising director.

The Transport Secretary had earlier celebrated the successful sell-off of the first two franchises, South West Trains and Great Western, during a ceremony at Waterloo station, London. Hundreds of thousands of commuters travelled to work on the privatised rail services for the first time yesterday. Sir George said: "We have reached a truly historic point in the revival of Britain's railways."

Three investigations are under way into the claims that LTS Rail ticket staff were involved in a scheme to divert up to £50,000 of revenue from London Underground to the franchise. The scheme is said to have started when the LTS management was awarded the franchise in December.

The results of the inquiries — by John Swift, the Rail Regulator, BR and London Underground — are expected later this week and the Government hopes to be able to proceed with the sale of LTS next month.

Mr Swift said: "It is very

important that those taking over the stewardship of assets being transferred from the public sector to the private sector are, and are seen to be, acting in the public interest."

Barbara Mills, Director of Public Prosecutions, is considering a letter from Brian Wilson, Labour's rail spokesman, in which he demands "a full police inquiry into the allegations of fraud" at LTS.

Colin Andrews, LTS commercial director, has already resigned and Ian Burton, the retail manager, was suspended yesterday.

The buyout's backers, the

developments with interest, Kenneth Irvine, chairman of Prism, said.

Answering an emergency question yesterday, Sir George assured the Commons there was "no question of financial irregularities being tolerated in a modern railway, whether it is publicly owned or privately owned."

Pressure to reopen the tendering process came from Clare Short, the Shadow Transport Secretary. "Will you now give us an undertaking that the offer to allow this management team to run this service will be withdrawn, because they have shown themselves to be a corrupt management team...?" Amid Tory protests, she added: "...if the allegations are true."

Sir George said a routine audit had disclosed the irregularities. But last night an anti-privatisation campaigner, Keith Bill, said that an LTS employee had told BR of the alleged fraud.

The claims are said to centre on the re-issuing of tickets at a station used both by mainline and Tube trains. London Underground is said to have been deprived of a portion of the fare — estimated to total £30,000 a month.

London Underground managers were last night said to be increasingly concerned that the financial irregularities uncovered could be repeated at stations across the network.

The company fears that private rail operators could be tempted to "launder" sales of London Transport passes through stations such as Surbiton, Surrey, where the operator is allocated the bulk of the revenue. "We are now checking carefully to see if there are any areas where we may be exposed to risks in order to make sure we have robust procedures in place to avoid similar potential losses to those alleged," London Underground said.



Young said "BR won't hesitate to call in police"

venture capital groups 3i and Gresham Trust, were standing by the management team yesterday. "We have not withdrawn our backing as yet as we are waiting the outcome of the investigations," Paul Murray, of 3i, said.

The Government is believed to favour awarding the franchise to the second-placed bid if the management buyout cannot proceed. Two of the defeated bidders for LTS Rail, Prism and GB Railways, said yesterday that they would be interested in rebidding if the management buyout were abandoned. "We are watching



MATTHEW PARRIS POLITICAL SKETCH

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Paddy Ashdown announcing libel proceedings against the Western Daily Press

## Ashdown sues over 'smear'

By Alice Thomson  
POLITICAL REPORTER

PADDY ASHDOWN issued libel proceedings yesterday against a regional newspaper that published allegations about his personal life. The Liberal Democrat leader also vowed to tackle head-on the "source of terrorism and intimidation" in his Somerset constituency and said he was determined that criminals in Yeovil would be brought to book.

Mr Ashdown condemned the article in the *Western Daily Press* as "utterly disgraceful". He told a press conference: "My solicitor is in touch with them and libel proceedings will be issued." Mr Ashdown declined to discuss the allegations. Mr Ashdown was warned by police at the weekend that he is facing a vendetta by some of his constituents.

Recent attacks on Mr Ashdown include the

firebombing of his Vauxhall Senator car last week, threatening letters and an incident when he was allegedly held at knifepoint in Yeovil late at night. At one stage the police set up surveillance equipment in the garden of his chartered cottage in Norton sub Hamdon.

He is due to appear in court this Thursday as a witness against a man accused of assault on him. The defendant is likely to ask for reporting restrictions to be lifted. Mr Ashdown has been involved in investigations concerning alleged race attacks in restaurants, but the police say there is no racial motive in any of the incidents they are studying.

Yesterday Mr Ashdown said: "I am not prepared to be dissuaded from taking action. That is what the town has suffered from for so long."

Three local men have been arrested in connection with the firebomb attack.

## Scott to retaliate over denigration of report

By Nigel Williamson, Whitehall Correspondent

SIR Richard Scott will tomorrow enter the propaganda war over his report into the arms-to-Iraq affair with a plea to John Major to treat his findings "without preconception".

In his first public utterance since completing the report, he will show his anger at attempts to discredit his conclusions before publication next week. Sir Richard will also counter-attack Lord Howe of Aberavon, the former Foreign Secretary, and others who have criticised his methods.

The judge's warning to the Government not to play party politics with his report will come in an interview to be broadcast on the Channel 4 Dispatches programme on the day the 1,800-page document

is delivered to Downing Street.

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, is to voice Labour's dismay that while the Government will get eight days to prepare a defence, the Opposition will not see the vast report until half an hour before it is presented to the Commons, on February 15 — apparently for legal reasons. The report is being published under the 1840 Parliamentary Papers Act to prevent Sir Richard being sued for libel.

Labour is also unhappy that the judge has decided not to produce a summary of the report. Sir Richard's judgements are regarded in legal circles as being woven — sometimes obscurely — into a

long narrative. A source close to the inquiry said that there would be "a highlighting of conclusions" and an index.

The Government will produce its own summary and Labour believes that ministers hope to blur the criticisms, garnering favourable news coverage before anyone outside Whitehall has had the opportunity to digest the report. By the time politicians and journalists have chewed over the small print, the Opposition fears that public interest may have waned and those likely to be most criticised in the report — William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General — may keep their jobs.

## MP tells judges to stop sniping

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

THE MP who chairs the influential Home Affairs Select Committee has warned judges that they will lose public respect if they continue to criticise the Government.

In the latest comment in the dispute between judges and the Home Secretary over plans for tougher sentencing, Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC, said that judges should not make public criticism of government policy.

"If the judges want to express their views, they can express them through all sorts of channels, privately and quietly, and it might have more effect," he added that, even if the proposals were defeated in the Lords, the Commons would seek to reverse that defeat "as we did with the War Crimes Bill".

The judges, he said, had to realise that "they don't make the law, Parliament makes the law and the reason why the Home Secretary might want such laws is that he is account-

able to Parliament and to the people in the way that the judges are not."

He added: "People ought to look up to judges. They are outside the political arena; they are not the ones who make the law but they are the ones we should look up to for enforcing it. But once they come out into public, and start rowing with the Government on something on which the public is on the Government's side, the public will think less of the judges."

An array of senior judges have attacked Mr Howard's plans for tougher sentencing, to be outlined in a White Paper this spring. They include Lord Taylor of Goshforth, the Lord Chief Justice; Lord Justice Rose, a Court of Appeal judge; Lord Donaldson of Lynton, former Master of the Rolls; and Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, a former Lord Chancellor.

Law, pages 37, 39

## Ministers believe Province will vote within months

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

GROWING confidence that elections paving the way to all-party talks in Northern Ireland will be held within months was voiced by senior ministers yesterday after John Major completed his first round of talks with the political leaders.

The Government believes that, in spite of their initial strong reservations, the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party, Sinn Féin and the Irish Government will eventually come round to elections as the "passport" to talks.

An informed ministerial source likened the current round of discussions to people "dancing round the bonfire, poking at the flames". He said that eventually they would go along with elections and that both Sinn Féin and the SDLP had been careful not to rule out taking part.

Even so, ministers are taking seriously the warnings of a potential split within the IRA over the peace process. "We

know that 30 per cent of them were against it in the first place — it is always a risk. But we think that is another reason why Sinn Féin will want to use the elections route."

Mr Major met John Alderdice, leader of the Alliance party, yesterday. The political leaders will now have detailed talks with Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and his deputy Michael Ancram, before having a second round of discussions with Mr Major.

Mr Alderdice said the meeting had been "very encouraging and worthwhile". He had urged Mr Major to seek elections "as quickly as is humanly possible" and to reassure nationalists that they would lead to serious all-party negotiations. Dr Alderdice said he wanted to see elections by April or May.

A fierce row has broken out within the Northern Ireland Police Authority over proposals to reform the Royal Ulster

Constabulary to make the force more acceptable to Roman Catholics.

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## Professor rediscovers rocky landscapes immortalised in galleries across the world

## Art detective uncovers Cézanne's inspirations

BY DALIA ALDERGE  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AN AMERICAN scholar who has spent 30 years following in the footsteps of Cézanne has tracked down the settings for a dozen of his best-known paintings.

Pavel Machotka, Professor of Psychology and Art at the University of California, Santa Cruz, has dated and refitted some pictures after finding locations in Provence and on the outskirts of Paris.

One of his discoveries, as he travelled through France seeking to match hundreds of photocopied images to places that a church which had long been assumed to be in Aix-en-Provence was at Montigny-sur-Loing, in the north.

For decades, its ambiguous title was no more than *Village Church*. Professor Machotka said that it could have been any one of a hundred similar churches in France. Drawing on the locals for guidance, his detective work led him to the building.

At a surprising number of landscapes have remained as Cézanne would have known them, the professor was able to find clusters of trees or groups of stone houses set against rocky landscapes, and to take colour photographs of them in the same light that Cézanne painted them.

He recalled how he found



Cézanne: self-portrait

the *Rocks at Estaque*, sculpted by nature. "The rock formation had never been seen before. It was obviously a bay at Marseilles, but nobody had found the formation. The motif is unchanged except for high-tension wires. It was extraordinary. I was looking at what Cézanne was looking at. After several hours of climbing, I had found the site."

The professor's findings are published this week by Yale University Press, coinciding with the exhibition at the Tate Gallery that opens on Thursday. The first Cézanne retrospective since 1936, it is expected to be one of the gallery's most successful shows.

First Call, the advance booking agency, has already broken records set by ticket sales for the Monet exhibition and

the Tate is preparing for some 300,000 visitors, at a conservative estimate. Cézanne sold barely any of his works and was not given a solo show until he was in his late fifties. Matisse would have thought the show was long overdue: in his eyes, Cézanne was a "god of painting".

Among some 90 paintings and 70 watercolours to be seen at the Tate are images that Professor Machotka matched to their locations. Using colour photographs, he was able to explore physical surface, colour relationships and the extent to which Cézanne was painting exactly what his eye was seeing.

"Cézanne had a passionate attachment to visual reality," he said. "Unlike other scholars who have viewed Cézanne as an early Cubist, I view him as an artist determined to extract as many visual resonances between the components of the motifs as possible."

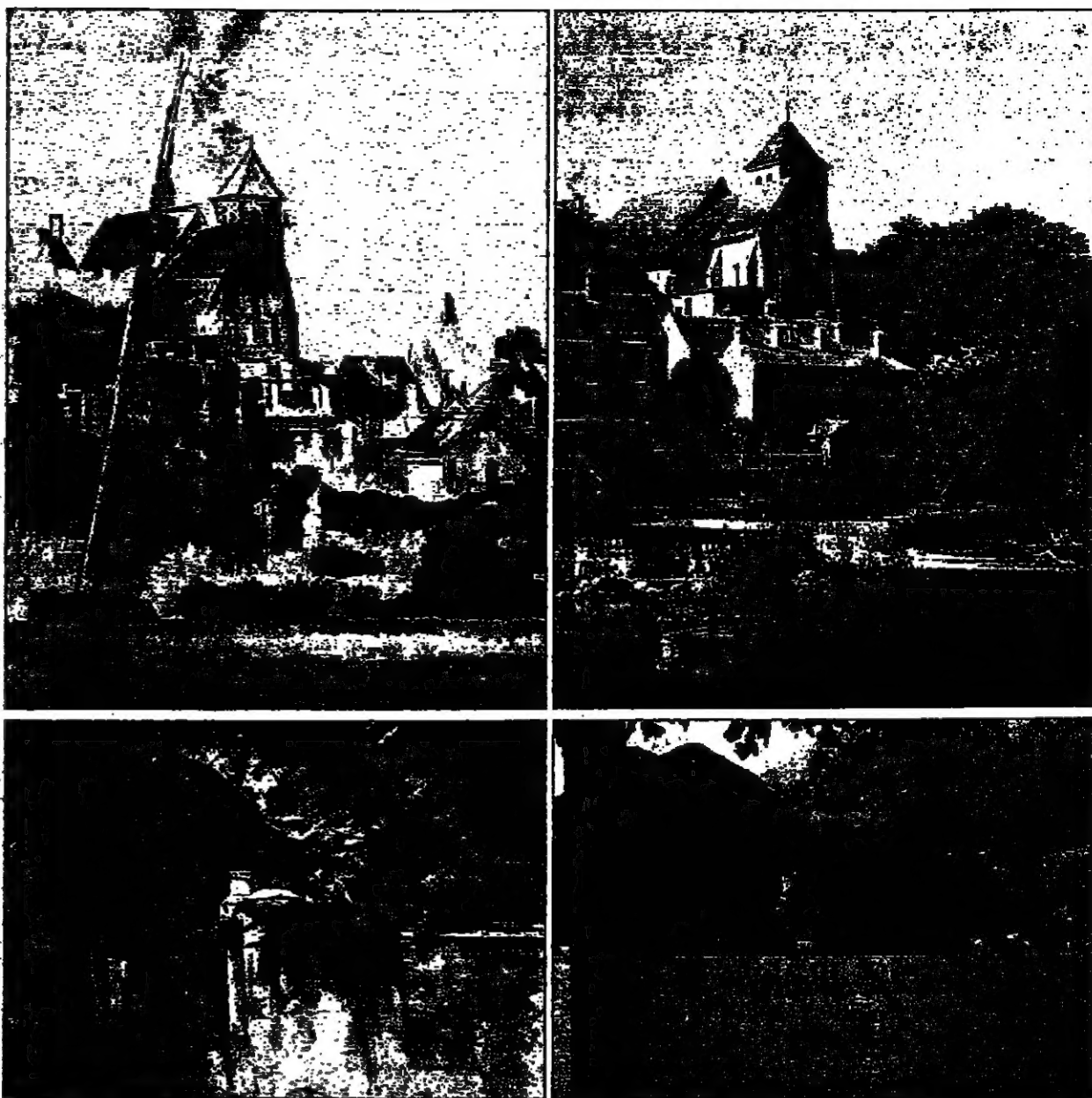
For example, in taking a colour photograph of *La Montagne Saint-Victoire* at 9.30am, something that had never been done before, he was able to show the gradual progression of colours from blues to greens which the master subtly incorporated into his painting and the shadows which he transformed into dramatic diagonal, semi-abstract lines.

In *The Lake at Annecy*, one of Cézanne's most famous

images, lent by the Courtauld Institute Galleries to the Tate, Professor Machotka's first photograph of the scene shows how similar it is today. A composition that was formerly titled *La Saint-Victoire, Environs de Gardanne*, he has refitted as *Hamlet near Gardanne*. He was able to pinpoint its isolated location by searching for places where a hillside might meet with the foot of the Sainte-Victoire by a gradual approximation. I eventually found the hamlet at the end of a narrow road. Cézanne placed his easel at the edge of a field. He added that judging by the low sun and the brown meadows, Cézanne had painted it late in the year and at 10.30am.

The professor said: "A photograph of the site of a well-known painting arouses our curiosity right away: it breaks open the sealed world of the landscape canvas, situates the artist in a place and a moment, and reminds us that an artist searches, gazes, at times dissembles, and recombines. It also encourages the hope that we will better understand the artist's purpose and vision."

It was impossible to find some sites, particularly those in Paris, which had changed beyond recognition, or the town of St Henri, near Marseilles, whose charming streets had been bulldozed to make way for motorways.

Top: vaguely titled as *Village Church*, the scene at Montigny-sur-Loing. Above: the Courtauld's *Lake at Annecy*

## Guppy freed after compensating Lloyd's for fraud

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

DARIUS GUPPY was freed from jail yesterday after paying a large sum of compensation to Lloyd's insurers, whom he defrauded of £1.8 million.

Guppy, 30, left Ford after prison in Sussex shortly after being serving a three-year sentence for a fraud involving a stolen car.

The old Etonian, an Oxford graduate, was released from jail after paying part of a £227,000 compensation order imposed by Redbridge magistrates last July. The court had ordered him to serve two years and nine months' further imprisonment after he failed to pay the cash.

David Reynolds, a solicitor representing Lloyd's insurers, said last night: "He has paid the funds due under the compensation order."

It is understood that Guppy, of Notting Hill, west London, did not pay the full amount, as the final sum takes into account the time he has served in prison since last July.

Under the terms of the deal, Guppy has also reached a deal with his Trustee in Bankruptcy to provide further payments to Lloyd's of London and his other creditors. Mr Reynolds said: "He has agreed to pay further sums in due course. I cannot tell you how much. There is a confidentiality clause."

Earlier civil proceedings against Guppy had been settled after he pledged to pay the

compensation plus £250,000 after his release. He hoped to earn the money from writing and interviews with the media.

Guppy, who is a friend of Lord Spencer, the brother of the Duke of Wales, was charged with the fraud for a fraud involving a stolen car and the couple's daughter Isabella.

He had been convicted with his co-accused Benedict Marsh at Snaresbrook Crown Court in February 1993 for faking a jewellery robbery in New York in 1990 and claiming £1.8 million insurance. He was sentenced to five years and a further three were imposed after he failed to pay the compensation.

At his trial he was said to have boasted of pulling off the "perfect crime". Guppy set up the fraud with Marsh, a friend from Oxford. The two were partners in a firm, Inca Constructors, and while in New York in 1990 paid an associate £10,000 to tie them up and supposedly rob them at gunpoint.

It fooled New York police and insurance loss adjusters. After returning to London, the pair presented false invoices for £1.8 million worth of stones and were paid by a number of underwriting syndicates within a week. The following day, Guppy and Marsh flew to New York to retrieve the jewels from a safe deposit box.

Guppy had been best man at Earl Spencer's wedding, and the earl put up half of Guppy's £500,000 bail when he and Marsh were arrested in 1991 for the same fraud.

Guppy, who had studied for his degree at Magdalen College, was reported to have converted to Islam while in Sudbury prison near Ashbourne, Derbyshire. Guppy said that every morning he read prayers with a group of Muslims at the jail.

His family's origins are Iranian. His wife is a Roman Catholic from Sunderland.

## Man jailed 18 years after killing father

A TEENAGER who endured a childhood of "staggering evil" killed his violent, bullying father and buried his body in the cellar where the remains lay undiscovered for 17 years, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Stephen French kept a promise to his mother that he would admit what he had done, only after she died. When she died of a heart attack he made an oblique reference to the killing at her funeral, the court was told.

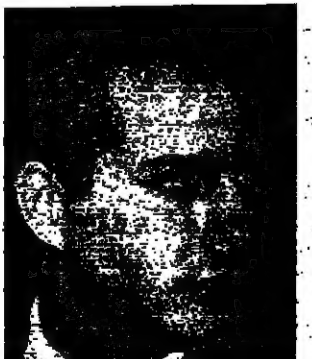
It was not until he was in prison on remand for robberies that he called police to his cell and described how, when he was 14, he shot his father as he slept and put his dismembered body into two oil drums at the family home in Rochester, Kent. When they moved house three months later to Forest Gate, east London, the drums went too and were buried in the cellar.

French, 32, denied murdering his father, Peter Leslie, but admitted manslaughter. He also pleaded guilty to a string of robberies, attempted robberies and escaping from custody. He was jailed for a total of 18 years.

The court was told that French, his mother and three elder brothers and sisters were beaten and threatened by the powerfully built Leslie, nicknamed "Gypsy Pete", who was obsessed with guns. He knocked out his children's teeth, blacked their eyes and broke their ribs.

Once he forced the young French to eat a meal of kitchen waste that included dog food, bleach and sink cleaner, French went in the 'cock as Rock Tansy, QC, in mitigation, said: "It was a childhood of staggering evil which affected French throughout his adult life."

Sir Lawrence Vemey, the Recorder of London, accepted that French had had an appalling childhood "but that did not justify the solution". He jailed him for five years for manslaughter, 12 for the robberies, and a further year for escaping.



Guppy: served almost three years in jail

## Hi-tech drivers locked out

BY NICK NUTTALL  
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

MOTORISTS are being locked out of their cars by radio hams, the Automobile Association disclosed yesterday. "The hams" broadcasts can jam remote locking devices that beam coded radio signals to the car.

The AA said that it had recently been called out to help scores of members in Buckinghamshire who had found themselves unable to open or shut their cars.

Dave Lang, the association's chief engineer, said:

"The European radio authorities have allowed car manufacturers to use a frequency for their remote control keys that was already allocated to radio hams. When a radio ham is transmitting the signal is so strong that in some cases motorists near by cannot activate their car's central locking, alarm or immobiliser systems."

Mr Lang said research was urgently needed on car security systems to minimise interference.

A radio ham can use up to 100 watts of radio frequency power to transmit all over the world. Remote control keys

use up to 0.01 of a watt and work over a range of 5 to 15 metres.

According to the AA, the only solution for a car immobilised by a blocked radio beam is to be towed outside the influence of the radio ham's transmitter. The remote control devices come with a metal key, but that is for turning on the ignition only. Trying to use the key to open the door will trigger the vehicle's alarm system.

A spokesman for the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said: "It is a recognised problem but we are hardly at panic stations."

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## Helpline staff struggle to prevent smear tests panic

By ADRIAN LEE  
AND JEREMY LAURANCE

FRESH doubts about the accuracy of cervical screening tests carried out on millions of women were raised yesterday as a hospital disclosed that it would re-examine 70,000 cervical smears because of an unacceptable error rate.

The Kent and Canterbury Hospital was deluged with calls from hundreds of anxious women after it revealed that its detection rate for abnormal smears had fallen below the expected standard. Instead of picking up between 85 per cent and 95 per cent of abnormalities, over five years its detection rate was between 65 per cent and 75 per cent. A helpline set up to deal with the alarm had taken more than 1,000 calls by early evening. A team of 40 operators is telling women that the results of every screening made between 1990 and 1995 will be re-examined. They will be contacted by letter within 14 days. The check of all results will cost at least £140,000, and it is expected that about 350 women given a clean bill of health will now be told they are in the risk category.

The case is the latest in a series of scandals involving smears being inadequately taken or read which has undermined public confidence.

The national screening programme began in 1988, offering tests every three or five years to women aged 20 to 64. After five years of the programme the number of women screened was 80 per cent of the age group, with 4,000 cases of invasive cancer and 19,000 cases of pre-cancer being detected annually. About 1,000 to 2,000 lives a year are saved. In 1994, after it was found that several smears were unreadable and that there were local variations in the proportion of abnormalities, the national co-ordinating team for breast screening took over administration. Laboratories have received guidelines.

Failures at the Canterbury hospital were attributed to inadequate training and experience of laboratory staff and had been uncovered during routine checks. Doctors said it was likely that other hospitals had similar error rates.

However, Julietta Patrick, national co-ordinator of the cervical screening programme, said that a detection rate of between 65 per cent and 75 per cent was unusually low. Laboratories were expected to compare their results with the national guidelines and investigate discrepancies.

"What has happened at Canterbury is a symptom of things being put right. If we didn't look we wouldn't find anything wrong."

The hospital said the threat to health was "minimal" because the wrongly diagnosed smears showed early cancer normally takes between 10 and 15 years to develop. Dr Kate Neales, consultant gynaecologist at the 428-bed hospital, said: "We are not looking at one individual who has failed. If anything, it is a systems failure."

Women may have to wait months for the results. Dr Neales said: "It is extremely unlikely that any of these women have cervical cancer."

The problem came to light in October when analysts took the test results of a handful of women with abnormal smears and compared them with their last normal test. Some, supposedly normal smears were found to have abnormalities when re-examined.

After that random exercise, another 10,509 smears tests were independently re-

sessed at laboratories in Birmingham and Manchester and 89 mistakes found. Now all 70,000 tests will be re-screened in batches of 10,000 at a time. The screening, which costs £100 million a year nationally, involves taking cells from the neck of the womb. Deaths from cervical cancer in England and Wales fell from 1,485 in 1993 to 1,369 in 1994. In east Kent there were 19 deaths in 1993 and the figure is falling in line with the rest of the country.

Helpline callers were told the risk was minimal but women in Canterbury did not seem reassured. Christine McKay, 29, who had her last smear test 18 months ago, said: "They say not to worry but how do you know? You would have thought in this day and age they could get things right."

Gill Nicholls, 37, said: "I have had two smears and I feel really uptight about this. I feel angry that they have not done their job properly and that women who thought they were in the clear might have to wait months to find out."

The helpline number is 01227 766016.



Conservationists hope the poisoned food will enable the red squirrel, left, to survive at the expense of its grey cousin

## Wildlife saviours to poison squirrels

By MICHAEL HORNSEY  
COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

GREY squirrels are to be poisoned by conservationists in an experiment aimed at saving the rapidly dwindling native red squirrel.

Food laced with warfarin, which kills by causing internal haemorrhaging, will be placed in special hoppers on Anglesey. Previously the Ministry of Agriculture has prohibited the poisoning of greys for

fear that reds might also die. But the Forestry Commission has designed a feeding hopper with a flap-door that it believes only the stronger greys can open. There are about 1,000 grey squirrels on the Welsh island, compared with 50 reds.

Malcolm Smith, director of science and policy at the Countryside Council for Wales, said: "This project is the only way we have left permanently to conserve a red squirrel population in southern Britain. Without it, we believe our native

red faces extinction, eventually throughout the country. We know that many people will be unhappy but we are not trying to eradicate greys. The aim is to keep their numbers to a level that permits co-existence with reds."

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said: "We would much prefer the squirrels to be trapped in cages and humanely dispatched, but we recognise that such a method would be far more expensive and time-consuming."

## Surgeon sues over Dr Dolittle tag

By RICHARD DUCE

A DOCTOR told a High Court libel trial yesterday that he became the sacrificial lamb in an attempt by Virginia Bottomley to deflect criticism from a national shortage of neuro-surgical beds after a patient was flown 200 miles.

Anthony Percy, a consultant orthopaedic surgeon, became known as Dr Dolittle in the *Daily Mirror* after he was criticised in an internal investigation for failing to attend the Queen Mary Hospital, Sidcup, where Malcolm Murray, 45, was taken with serious

head injuries. He was flown to hospital in Leeds but subsequently died.

Mr Percy, 53, advised from his home by telephone late at night that efforts should be made to trace a bed elsewhere because there was no clinical help he could offer.

Mr Percy is suing Mirror Group Newspapers for libel over the article published on March 29 last year and two further reports in the same newspaper. The publisher denies libel and the trial continues today.

## Victims of malaria pill start legal fight

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON

MORE than 130 people began legal action yesterday against the manufacturer of a widely used anti-malaria drug that can cause serious psychological side-effects.

The number involved in the group claim for compensation from the maker of Lariam has almost doubled since two news reports in *The Times* last month highlighted the dangers. Christiane Goaziou, the solicitor who is heading the action against Roche, the manufacturer, said: "We realise that this is a David and Goliath battle but we will still try to win."

Last night the BBC1 programme *Watchdog* produced further evidence of the drug's side-effects, which in the most extreme cases can include manic depression, fits and panic attacks.

Sue Woodford, who is married to the Labour peer Lord Hollick, told the programme: "I got very frightened. The reaction was so extreme. I thought I was having a brain haemorrhage. This was the effect of taking just one pill."

Roche says that its research indicates only one in 10,000 users has serious side-effects, although more than 20 per cent experience a lesser reaction. "Serious" is defined as death, hospitalisation, or disability.

Doctors continue to prescribe Lariam for travellers to equatorial Africa, the Far East and the Caribbean because it is by far the most effective anti-malaria drug, working in 95 per cent of all cases. Last year 11 British travellers died from malaria.

In a statement last night Roche said: "Effective drugs have side-effects. Roche Products has always stated that Lariam can cause a range of side-effects and the product data sheet says that the incidence of such side-effects is known to be 22 per cent."

The company said that it was in continuous discussions with the British regulatory authority. "If, in the course of that dialogue it is considered appropriate to make any changes to the product information, those changes will be made."

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## Rig to be broken up on land

Shell UK announced yesterday that it will break up a North Sea gas platform on land at a cost of £11 million. The 6,000-tonne Leman BK platform stands 45 miles off Lowestoft, Suffolk.

In June Royal Dutch/Shell abandoned plans to scuttle the Brent Spar oil platform in the Atlantic after it was opposed by Greenpeace.

## GP reprimanded

A GP who let his unqualified son treat patients at his surgery in Whitehaven, Cumbria, was reprimanded by the General Medical Council. Brian Moss, 53, wrongly believed that Bruce had started at medical college.

## Case dropped

Klaus Wagner, who was arrested outside the Princess of Wales's fitness club last month, is not to be prosecuted. The Crown Prosecution Service said there was insufficient evidence to substantiate a charge of obstruction.

## Illegal line up

An Oxford University student fitted an illegal line to make £10,526 of calls to his Hong Kong family. Kar-Wing May, 28, admitted dishonestly obtaining a telephone service. He will be sentenced later by Oxford magistrates.

## Fat cat sacked

A hospital cat that sits on patients' laps and helps them to relax needs a new home because he weighs two stone. A spokesman for Knowle Hospital in Fareham, Hampshire, said: "Patients can't pick him up any more."

## CORRECTIONS

□ In the obituary of Marcia Davenport (January 31) the date of her mother's wedding was wrongly given as 1906. In fact, Alma Fiersohn married Bernard Gluck in 1902.

□ The London-based newsletter *Foreign Report* is published by Jane's Information Group (report, January 27).







## Cash-strapped care homes show old people the door

By JEREMY LAURANCE  
AND RACHEL KELLY

RESIDENTS in a growing number of old people's homes are being put through the trauma of closure and relocation as a financial crisis grips the private care sector.

At least one home a day is being deregistered and thousands are in financial difficulties as owners struggle with falling property values, growing competition from large companies and the impact of government policy to care for old people in their own homes.

There are 21,000 private care homes in England and Wales, of which three quarters care for the elderly. Experts say family-run homes are disappearing as the market is increasingly dominated by big corporations running chains of homes and as council social services departments cut back on referrals and payment of fees.

Chris Vellenoweth, nursing homes project manager at the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts, said: "Inspectors have had to step in to help relocate residents suddenly when homes have closed without any notice at all. In some cases the gas or electricity has been cut off and there is no means of providing residents with their next meal. These are vulnerable people who are



Hilda Eburth, right, had to move when home closed

unable to fend for themselves."

Health authority inspectors say owners are keeping their financial difficulties secret until the last possible moment, triggering a crisis and putting old people at risk. Frank Ursell, administrator of the Registered Nursing Homes Association, said: "Nursing homes in receivership are now advertised every week. You never saw that before."

Ian Wilkie, national health-care director of Christie & Co, the largest agents in the market, said he was seeing many more receiverships and distressed sales.

Social services departments, which face budget cuts, are closing council-run homes. West Sussex, which is seeking £2 million savings, is to close seven homes. In Birmingham

no new referrals have been made to private old people's homes for two months.

Relatives of old people who have been forced to move when homes close say the experience is traumatic. Hazel Hodgkinson transferred her 93-year-old mother, Hilda Eburth, to Abbotsford care home in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, after her previous home, where she had lived for almost three years, shut because of financial and staffing problems.

"She lost contact with all the people she knew and she had to start again. It caused a great

deal of fear at a time of life when you want security," she said.

Residents of a home in Scotland were shocked one afternoon last month when sequestrators holding court papers walked in and set about closing it. The owners of Overton Hall, near New Galloway, had been made bankrupt a month before but had not told them.

Nor had they told Dumfries and Galloway local authority, whose social workers called emergency meetings to work out how to rehouse the six residents, some in their 80s and suffering from senile dementia. Relatives, one family from as far as London, had to be called to help.

Owners of care homes say that the pressure on them increased sharply when the Community Care Act took effect in April 1993. Local authorities, who took over financial responsibility for people in residential care, sought to keep people in their own homes and cut fees. At the same time, inspectors demanded costly improvements.

Many local authorities have not increased fee levels since



Eric Milner ran a home for the elderly in Tholthorpe, near York, until rising costs prompted him to close it down

the late 1980s. In Cheshire, the local authority has terminated contracts with nursing homes worth £322 a week and is to renew them next March at £303 a week.

Eric Milner, who closed Riell House in Tholthorpe,

near York, in December, ran the home for seven years with his wife, a nurse. He is now working on a pig farm.

"We were registered for nine residents and we were down to six, below breakeven point. The inspectors kept demand-

ing improvements such as thermostatic valves for the radiators. We couldn't afford it. You can't provide personal care anymore. We ran the home like a large family."

The growth of old people's homes began in the late 1970s and early 1980s when residents without large savings could get their fees paid automatically by the Department of Social Security. Public spending grew from £10 million to more than £1 billion by 1990 as more homes opened.

## Crofters offered 14m acres of land

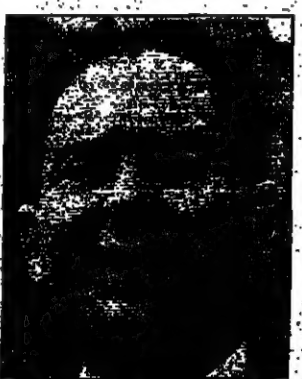
By GILLIAN BOWDITCH  
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 14 million acres of the Scottish Highlands are to be handed over by the Government to the 1,400 crofters who tend them, allowing the crofters control of their wee bit hill and glen", Michael Forsyth said yesterday.

He told a meeting of the Scottish Grand Committee in Inverness, that he was surprised when he took up the post of Scottish Secretary to find that he was the largest crofting landlord in Scotland.

"We need to ask whether these estates would not be better run in the future by local communities themselves rather than a government department which, with the best will in the world, cannot be as sensitive to a community's needs as those who actually live there."

"We sang at the rugby international on Saturday of our ancestors fighting for their 'wee bit hill and glen'. This Government offers crofters an opportunity to secure that. We are even prepared, if the circumstances justify it, to transfer certain crofts free," he told the Scottish MPs. Mr



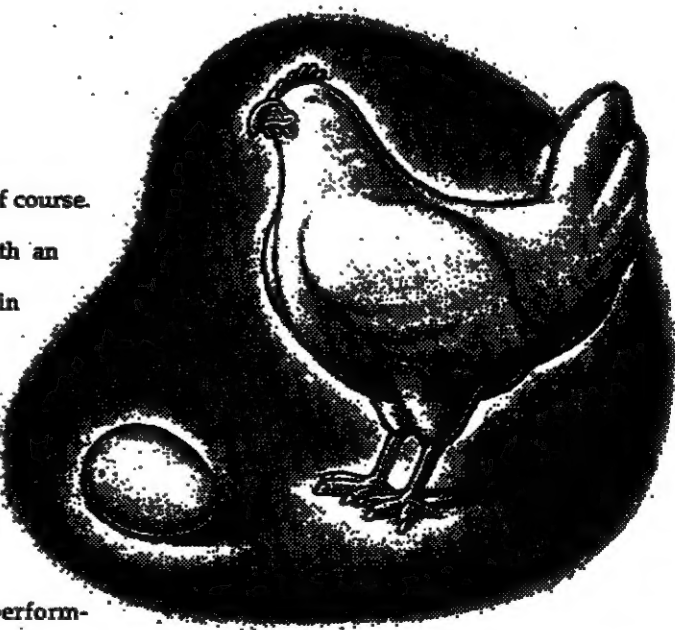
Forsyth urged landlords to follow his example

Forsyth has called on private landlords to follow his lead.

Land ownership in the Highlands is a vexed issue, with concern at the ease with which large estates are bought and sold. A crofters' conference three months ago was told that half of Scotland is owned by 500 people, many of them absentee landlords.

The new scheme will represent the largest transfer of land ownership in the Highlands since the First World War when the Government originally bought the land on 95 estates to provide a living for demobilised soldiers.

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DINING OUT is always a pleasure, but with The Times Eat Out For £5 offer, starting on Monday, February 12, it is also easily affordable. To apply, cut out the vouchers which are appearing daily in The Times until Saturday, February 17. Each voucher entitles you and up to five companions to dine at more than 400 participating restaurants featured in our guide. (If you missed yesterday's paper, you can order a guide by sending two first class stamps to: The Times Eat Out For £5 offer, PO Box 481, London E1 9BD.) All bookings and inquiries should be made by phone to the restaurant and you must mention The Times offer when you make your booking. Corrections: the telephone number of Restaurant 913 in Davenham, Northwich, Cheshire, is: 01606 330913. The Gemini restaurant at Tadworth, Surrey, (page 19 of the guide) is offering one course plus coffee not three courses.



This voucher entitles the bearer and up to five guests to a one, two or three course meal for £5 each at any one of the participating restaurants in The Times Eat out for £5 guide.

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# Shadow of Black Wednesday still darkens Tory prospects

Support for the Tories has at last started picking up, but how real is the upturn? Opinion changes in response both to occasional well-publicised shocks (rows, scandals and the like) and to less immediately discernible shifts in underlying attitudes.

In January 1995, Tory support jumped by five percentage points, and Labour's rating fell by a similar amount, according to the regular MORI polls for *The Times*. This followed reports of internal Labour arguments over VAT, education and Clause Four. This was

the first check to Tony Blair's previous ascent in the polls. Once he quelled the dissent, Labour recovered much of its previous support. Similarly, the Tories' rating leapt seven points at the end of last June after John Major's initiative over the party leadership. A month later, Tory support fell back again for two months.

Once these shocks had worked their way through, it was possible to discern a gradual rise in Tory support, of roughly three percentage points over the year as a whole. This trend was underlined by the last MORI poll, published

## RIDDELL ON POLITICS

12 days ago, which put the party on 29 per cent, its highest level for over two years.

This poll was taken before the Harriet Harman affair made its full impact. Party strategists are eagerly awaiting the next polls, from ICM, due tomorrow, and from Gallup, due later in the week, to see how the ratings have moved. But in nine days will come another shock in the form of the Scott report on the Iraqi arms affair. The

consequent row will almost certainly damage the Tories. It is impossible to tell what the lasting impact of these shocks will be. The only certainty is that the next month or two's polls will be distorted, probably in both directions, by these shocks.

Current signs of a pick-up in Tory fortunes from the low levels of the 1993-95 period are underlined not just by voting intentions figures but also by other questions about political attitudes. These point to a firming of support, particularly for Mr Major himself, among traditional Tory backers,

while economic optimism has begun to recover.

A poll of one thousand people who claim to have voted Tory in the 1992 election by the Opinion Research Business for James Capel has shown the first signs of a return of the "feel-good" factor (measuring optimism about personal finances, the economy and unemployment). The poll, undertaken between January 25 and 28, suggests that the improvement is especially marked among previous Tories who have switched to other parties. There is not yet evidence of any improvement in the Tories'

share of the vote among this sample, but the pollsters reckon that some of the factors necessary to achieve this are beginning to turn, not just the "feel-good" factor but also Mr Major's personal standing. He is a big asset for the party. Moreover, even among those who have switched away since 1992, the enterprise economy (a Tory slogan) is preferred by two to one over the stakeholder economy (Labour's slogan). However, a clear majority of these 1992 Tory supporters think Labour will win the next election, and there are worries that the Tory party has

swung too far to the right. It is uncertain how long it might take for such stirrings of better feelings about the Tories to translate into firm votes. My hunch is that it will be very hard, if not impossible, for the Tories completely to reverse the record drop in their economic competence and leadership ratings as a result of Black Wednesday, sterling's forced exit from the European exchange-rate mechanism in September 1992. That still looks like the decisive event of this Parliament.

PETER RIDDELL

## Lilley to announce pensions boost for small firms' staff

By Nicholas Wood, Chief Political Correspondent

THE benefits of occupational pension schemes will be extended to the staff of small firms under plans to be unveiled by Peter Lilley tomorrow.

Such workers largely missed out on the pensions boom in recent years because their employers lacked the expertise and manpower to run the kind of scheme offered by big companies. They have had to rely instead on the state pension or more expensive private pensions.

But in a speech on the future funding of retirement, the Social Security Secretary will seek to extend the occupational umbrella to all employees. He will allow a "third tier" of pensions in addition to the basic state pension and the compulsory second pensions of SERPS or contracted-out occupational or private schemes.

Mr Lilley's inaugural lecture to members of Politia, the newest of the Conservative think-tanks, will come against the background of renewed debate in Tory circles about the future of the welfare state. Although right-wing ministers are privately applauding his success in cutting real growth in social security spending from 3 per cent a year to 1 per cent, they still want to see more of the burden transferred to

private individuals and insurers.

But Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor and foremost exponent of the One Nation tradition, is expected to counter calls for radical change in a speech on the welfare state to the London School of Economics today.

Mr Lilley will make it easier for bosses of small firms to offer their staff "group personal pensions" under which a big commercial fund manager would set up a scheme for the employees of dozens of companies. It would be up to the employer to decide whether to boost payouts by also contributing to the fund.

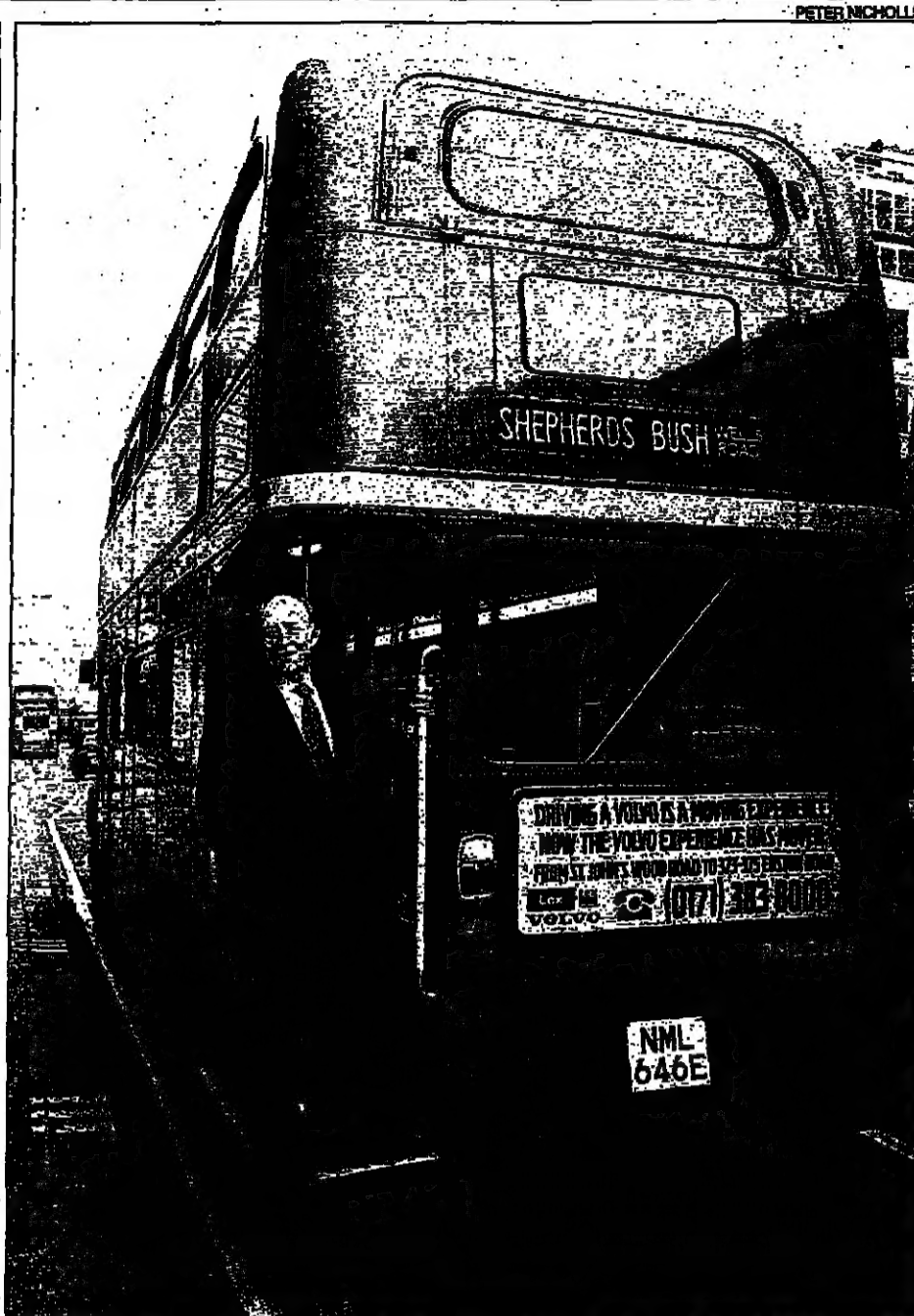
The idea is that employers would be able to offer their workers a chance to join a group scheme and so benefit from the lower administrative costs of arrangements covering hundreds of people. Regulations under the Financial Services Act that inhibit bosses from recommending pensions providers could be amended by the Government.

Mr Lilley will highlight what he regards as the success of the Government's pension policy, pointing out that total funds invested in occupational and private schemes stand at £600 billion — more than the rest of the European Union put together. The national kitty has grown by a startling

£100 billion in the past year — more than the £90 billion spent by the taxpayer on the whole of the welfare state over the same period, of which £32 billion went on state pensions.

He will claim that Britain is far better placed than its neighbours to cope with the burdens of an ageing population as the numbers of pensioners rises by 50 per cent to 16 million by 2030. But he will accuse Labour of planning pensions changes amounting to a backdoor way of raising taxes. He will say that Labour's proposals for extending means-testing and creating a guaranteed minimum pension would penalise people who have saved for their old age and undermine incentives for the present generation of workers to do likewise.

Labour's interest in the Singapore Central Provident Fund — under which employers and employees each contribute 20 per cent of earnings into a government-run welfare fund — will also be attacked as a long-term threat to individual savings. Mr Lilley will point out that the average rate of return from the Singapore fund is only one fifth that of privately managed UK pension funds and suggest that Labour is secretly planning to get its hands on some of the pensions surplus to use for higher state spending.



Neil Kinnock in London where he told a conference yesterday that raising road taxes would persuade more people to abandon their cars and use public transport

## Kinnock calls for bigger lorries and higher road tax

By Ian Murray

BIGGER juggernauts and higher road taxes are the answer to the traffic congestion that is costing Britain £30 billion a year, Neil Kinnock told a London conference yesterday.

Increasing the maximum lorry size would lead to fewer journeys, and raising road tax would encourage more people to use public transport, Mr Kinnock said. He had been converted to the cause of bigger juggernauts since becoming the European Union's Transport Commissioner.

"On the figures available to me, I believe the argument is very strong," he said. "Increased size is better than a congested infrastructure and is preferable to the misery of incessant traffic to those who live beside lorry routes."

He said that the EU was threatened with "economic thrombosis" by the growth of road traffic. "Endless traffic jams, suffocating urban air pollution, epidemic delays and rising insurance bills are already everyday facts of life — and of death."

Building more roads was no answer, and people had to be persuaded to make better use of public transport. "There needs to be a fairer and more accurate pricing of road use to encourage a shift. Even though motorists pay a lot there is a real gap between what users contribute and what they cost society."

"It may be that the only way to ensure a more judicious

choice is made about the various modes of transport available would be to introduce a fairer pricing regime."

Mr Kinnock said that the European Commission was producing figures which would show that for many people a car was an expensive luxury. "People will see that it is cheaper to hire a car when they need one rather than keep one as an extraordinary decoration to their homes, as a kind of mobile trophy."

He said it had taken him 25 minutes longer that morning to travel from Heathrow to the centre of London than to travel from Brussels to Heathrow. He believed that congestion could be eased by greater use of the Thames. "When there is access to the equivalent of a ten-lane motorway without any of the environmental pressures that access should be fully used."

After the conference, organised by the Association of London Government, Mr Kinnock described his decision to allow a £440 million subsidy to the Spanish airline Iberia as "legally sound" and said that British Airways and the Government had little if any justification for challenging it.

"Some of the hostility is well rehearsed — some of it was just a knee-jerk reaction," he said. Concerns about the subsidy were natural, but he was determined to ensure that there would be no uncompetitive practices.

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## Demand for inquiry into late payments

By Arthur Leathley

PRESSURE increased yesterday for an independent investigation into late payments by Whitehall departments.

The spending watchdog, the National Audit Office, has been asked to examine the reasons for at least £232 million being paid late by departments last year.

According to figures obtained from the Government by Barbara Roche, Labour's spokesman for small businesses, one of the worst offenders was the Department of Trade and Industry, which delayed almost £50 million of payments last year. In a letter to *The Times* today, she says that small firms are "going to the wall" because of late government payments.

Labour MPs were quick to point out that the head of the department last year was Michael Heseltine, who admitted last week that as a businessman he had often delayed paying creditors.

Letters, page 19

## Serious criminals gaining from Tory rule, says Straw

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

CONVICTIONS for crimes including rape, burglary and violence have fallen allowing many criminals to escape justice, according to a Labour Party study published yesterday.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said the decline in the number of convictions meant that the prospects of getting away with crime had risen since the Tories came to power. The number of recorded offences and the proportion of charges dropped before cases come to court had risen, and convictions and

cautions had fallen as a proportion of overall reported crime.

Mr Straw told a press conference at Westminster that more offenders were getting away with crime and that serious criminals had a three-times better chance of escaping punishment now than in 1980. The figures show that only one in eleven recorded rapes in 1994 was followed by a conviction compared with one in three in 1980. Only one in 33 house burglaries resulted in conviction or caution compared with one in 11

in 1980. For robberies the figures are one in four down to one in 11.

He said that the total number of convictions and cautions for home burglary and arson had fallen in spite of huge increases in the number of recorded offences in both categories. The balance had swung too far in favour of defendants.

"Somebody has done all right out of the Conservatives — it is serious criminals and their representatives. We have to ensure that more offenders are caught and convicted."

## Blair gimmickry gibe

THE Tories accused Tony Blair of political gimmickry yesterday over his announcement of an information superhighway deal with BT.

Mr Blair said at last year's party conference that a Labour government would allow BT access to the cable market by 1998 in exchange for connecting schools and hospitals to a nationwide computer

network. He has now agreed to give small companies time to establish themselves before BT can compete against them. Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, said that Labour had scrapped the deal, which had been a "cheap political gimmick made by someone who hasn't a scintilla of understanding of how the free market works".

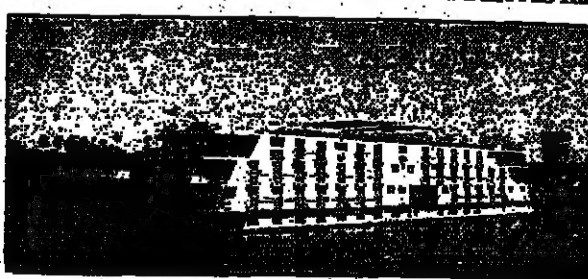
### IN PARLIAMENT

**YESTERDAY** in the Commons: questions to national business minister and the Lord Chancellor's Department. A Private Notice Question on rail privatisation was followed by debate on policing in London and on the Sheffield superfund. In the Lords: Criminal Procedure and Investigations Bill, report; and Agriculture Holdings (Fee) Regulations. **TODAY** in the Commons: questions to defence minister and the Prime Minister followed by debate on the future of GP contracts. Collective Redundancies and Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (Amendment) Regulations. **IN THE LORDS**: Criminal Procedure and Investigations Bill, committee stage; Health and Safety in Learning.

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## America's little ice age takes 60 lives and wrecks sunshine holidays in Florida

## Waterfalls freeze and moustaches wilt in cold snap

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

ICE floes have appeared in the Hudson and moustaches have snapped off in Minnesota. Record low temperatures were recorded yesterday in the eastern half of America as the freezing weather continued.

Television news broadcasts carried warnings of the danger to facial hair after men reportedly lost their moustaches by trying to brush away icicles in -60F (-51C) temperatures. Liz Cunnane, a New York trichologist, said that moustache-wearers should wrap upper lips against the extreme cold and not attempt combing until the hair was completely defrosted.

"Hair has a 12 to 14 per cent moisture content and in such temperatures it may freeze almost instantaneously," Miss Cunnane said.

Keith Pickus, an assistant professor of history at Wichita State University, Kansas, said: "On a five-minute walk across campus, my beard turned into one big stalactite. If you are not careful, it will break off like the stem of a good champagne flute."

Forecasters predicted a gradual improvement in the conditions, but 60 people are

now reported to have died as a result of the Arctic chill. One victim, an Alzheimer's sufferer, wandered round in a daze after a car crash in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and died of exposure. An 80-year-old woman in Wisconsin froze to death after locking herself in her garage, and a man in Houston, Texas, died after trying to warm himself over a brazier.

A spark from the hot coals set fire to his woollen mittens and then to the rest of his clothes. Winter sun-seekers in northern Florida awoke to temperatures below zero and a wind chill factor which took the mercury to -9F (-22C). The state's citrus farmers had to take emergency measures to protect crops, spraying fruit to create an insulating outer layer of ice. Bobby McKown, chief executive of Florida Citrus Mutual, predicted bad defoliation of orange trees. The damage may push up orange-juice prices.

Many motorists had trouble trying to start their cars. Residents of Windsor Locks, Connecticut, awoke yesterday to temperatures of -13F (-25C), and in upstate New York the waterfall at Haines Falls froze.

creating an array of icicles. Petrol pump attendants complained that their hands were too numb to handle change, and thousands of people in Tennessee were left without electricity after ice unbalanced power pylons. Along the shores of the Great Lakes, pedestrians were urged to "keep blinking" to protect their eyes.

In Atlanta, Georgia, schools and businesses did not open because of the -6F (-21C) conditions, and firemen set light to a frozen water hydrant to thaw it out before fighting a fire. But for the people of Duluth, Minnesota, yesterday morning's -10F (-23C) was a welcome rise on Friday's -60F (-51C).

"This," said John Myers, a local reporter, "feels positively springlike."



Don Lopez, a fireman, rescues Marglyn Pascka, 15, after she and a friend tried to cross a flooded creek in Santa Rosa, California, in a dustbin

## Museum takes over block of Manhattan

BY QUENTIN LETTS

NEW York's Museum of Modern Art, one of the most acquisitive galleries in the world, plans nearly to double in size. It has signed a \$30 million (£33 million) deal to buy neighbouring buildings in central Manhattan which include a 19-story hotel.

The ambitious expansion, which will be watched closely by the museum's British and European rivals, is likely to take ten years and will cost "several hundred million dollars". It will allow the museum to show more than the current 10 per cent of works it manages to exhibit and to hang some of the vast canvases favoured by modern artists.

By buying three buildings the museum has added 250,000 sq ft to its existing space of 350,000 sq ft. The buildings have high ceilings and offer different-shaped rooms. The museum's galleries have been criticised for being too rectangular and low-ceilinged. The expansion

means that the museum will occupy the best part of an entire block.

The museum was founded in 1929 by three rich women, including John D. Rockefeller's wife, Abby. It has the most comprehensive modern art collection in the world and has an acquisitions budget that is the envy of European museum directors. To pay for the development, the museum intends to run a vigorous appeal. There is little doubt that the funds will be raised.

Glenn Lowry, the director, told *The New York Times*: "This will allow us to have a different kind of future than anyone would have imagined a year ago."

Modern artists increasingly tend to produce work that is so oddly shaped, so grandiose in proportions, that it is difficult to hang. A good example is a 240,000 lb, 13 ft-high, 55 ft-long sculpture called *Intersection II* by Richard Serra, which was given to the museum three years ago.

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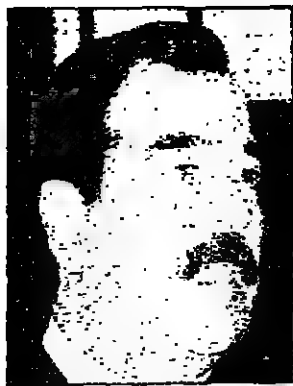
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# Saddam inches towards UN oil deal to feed starving Iraqis



Saddam: regime finally running out of cash

FROM JAMES BONE  
IN NEW YORK

IRAQ appears to be edging towards a deal with the United Nations that would allow it to sell a limited amount of oil on world markets for the first time since the Gulf War, in order to buy food for its starving people.

An Iraqi delegation led by Abdul Amir al-Anbari, the former Ambassador to the UN, is due to start talks with officials in New York today on an "oil-for-food" scheme approved by the Security Council last April. Under the scheme, Iraq would be permitted to sell \$1 billion (£640

million) worth of crude every three months for food and other humanitarian supplies.

Thirty per cent of the total revenue would be diverted to the UN Compensation Commission, set up to pay reparations to victims of the Gulf War, while a further \$150 million of every \$1 billion would be spent on the Kurdish population who live beyond Baghdad's control in three northern governorates.

Until now, Iraq has rejected the UN terms for an oil sale, particularly the set-aside for the Kurds and the requirement that the "larger share" of the exported oil be

shipped through the Kirkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline across Turkey. Baghdad claimed such conditions were an unacceptable infringement of its sovereignty.

Reports in official Iraqi media yesterday suggest, however, that Baghdad may be softening its resistance to the requirements. The *al-Jumhuriya* newspaper reported that President Saddam Hussein was ready to ship food to the Kurds and said that agreement between Iraq and the UN would be "a humiliating defeat for America".

Diplomats noted that the black market exchange rate for the Iraqi dinar had fallen from 3,000 to the

dollar to just 460 on the expectation of an oil deal.

Iraq's readiness to enter talks with the UN about the "oil-for-food" scheme, spelt out in Resolution 986 by the Security Council, has prompted speculation that Saddam's regime is finally running out of cash. UN agencies report dire conditions in the country, with four million people, or a fifth of the population, at severe nutritional risk and a new generation growing up stunted by malnutrition.

The market cost of food for a family of five is estimated at \$26 a month, while the average wage is only between \$3 and \$5 a month.

Some Iraqis are said to be so desperate that, having sold all their furniture to buy food, they are now dismantling their homes to sell the bricks.

Western diplomats remain sceptical, however, that Iraq will actually accept UN terms. Iraq has always feared that, if it accepts the scheme, it will postpone the time when it can obtain a complete lifting of the oil embargo.

Under the resolution that ended the Gulf War in 1991, the oil embargo must be lifted unconditionally once Iraq has satisfied UN weapons inspectors that it has dismantled its capacity to develop

ballistic missiles and biological, nuclear and chemical arms. Even if Iraq meets UN demands, Britain and the United States would still want to control its oil sales to keep a rein on Saddam, rather than allowing his Government to sell oil again freely on world markets.

The Arab League expressed the hope yesterday that the talks, which are expected to last for some weeks, will be successful. However, the UN cautioned that there would be "no quick fix". Sylvana Foa, a spokeswoman for the organisation, said: "These discussions will be difficult. It is going to take time."

## Forbes shrugs off barbed attacks by White House rivals

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

IT IS eight against one, but concerted attacks by the rest of the Republican field have yet to puncture the Steve Forbes bubble.

Robert Dole, the front-runner, has rounded on the multi-millionaire publisher because he has been shaken by his recent surge in popularity. The seven other candidates have ranged up on Mr Forbes because he prevents them from getting a clear shot at Mr Dole.

In speeches and advertisements they denounce Mr Forbes's "flat tax", his political inexperience, his social liberalism and his attempt to "buy" the presidency, but the most they can claim to have achieved so far is to have capped his rise.

"The more he is attacked, the more supporters come to his aid. There's a circle-the-wagons mentality," said Frank Luntz, the pollster who advised Ross Perot's independent presidential campaign in 1992, helped devise Newt Gingrich's 1994 Contract with America and has made the "angry white male" his speciality.

Last weekend Mr Luntz brought together 14 of Mr Forbes's New Hampshire supporters for a detailed two-hour discussion and let reporters watch through a one-way mirror. They learnt that Mr Forbes's greatest asset was his

status as a political outsider. His trademark "flat tax" plan merely reinforced that status because it would end the legitimised corruption of Washington where politicians trade tax concessions for financial contributions. "The flat tax" draws attention to Forbes, but voters stick with him because he's not a politician," Mr Luntz said.

Mr Forbes's original backers were anti-tax supply-siders, but he increasingly draws support from what a Dole adviser termed the "anti-Washington, anti-political, anarchic wing of the Republican Party". This makes it easy for him to deflect attacks from his rivals and from the media by portraying them as the product of a worried establishment. In one advertisement Mr Forbes outlines his goals

then adds: "The politicians will try to stop us."

Mr Forbes's willingness to dip deep into his personal fortune also enables him to swamp his rivals' messages. He has already spent \$18 million (£11.9 million), most of it on saturation advertising, and he dominates the airwaves in both Iowa, whose caucuses are a week today, and in New Hampshire, which holds the nation's first primary in a fortnight. Brent Siegrist, the Republican leader of Iowa's House of Representatives, told *Time*: "He's on the radio all day at work. He drives you home and he puts you to bed."

In attacking Mr Forbes, Mr Dole also faces the danger of reinforcing his reputation for meanness. His new strategy is to employ surrogates to do the dirty work while appearing to be above the fray. The chief surrogate is Steve Merrill, New Hampshire's popular Governor, who is appears on Dole advertisements claiming the Forbes "flat tax" would cost his state's average household an extra \$2,000 a year.

The Dole camp is banking on Mr Merrill to deliver the Granite State just as one of his predecessors, John Sununu, delivered it for George Bush in 1988. The defeated candidate was Mr Dole and Mr Sununu went on to become President Bush's chief of staff.

### Ailing Reagan to miss 85th party

Washington: Seven years after leaving office, Ronald Reagan is 85 today, but he is too ill with Alzheimer's disease to attend his birthday party in Los Angeles tonight at the restaurant where he proposed to Nancy (from Rhodes writes). Guests include Bob Hope and Charlton Heston.



Republican presidential candidate Steve Forbes, who has shaken Robert Dole

## Clinton starts on budget for 1997

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

AMERICA'S budget fiasco reached new levels of absurdity yesterday when President Clinton formally submitted a 1997 budget plan even though he and the Republican Congress have yet to agree a plan for the present fiscal year, which began last October.

Mr Clinton was meeting a legal requirement and tacitly admitted that the situation was ridiculous. Budget plans normally run to about 2,000 pages; yesterday's bare-bones offering was just 20 pages.

"The 1996 budget process is being lapped by 1997," said Robert Reichbauer, former director of the congressional budget office. "We have the runners for the previous race still on the track and the gun is going off for the new race."

Mr Clinton vetoed the Republicans' 1996 budget last November, saying it would devastate key social programmes in order to balance the budget by 2002. Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, twice shut down the federal Government, but Mr Clinton refused to give in.

The Republicans abandoned their hardline tactics last month when it became clear that they had lost public support. Budget negotiations have all but collapsed.

Mr Clinton's 1997 budget proposal mostly restated his last offer to the Republicans: which was a balanced budget in seven years, achieved through smaller tax cuts.

## Unlucky kicker booted

New York: Michael Volino, the New York police sergeant, failed to kick his way to riches in front of millions of American football fans and was booted off the pitch.

Sergeant Volino, the winner of a lucky draw, was offered \$1 million by a chocolate company if he succeeded with a single place kick at the Pro Bowl in Hawaii. Regardless of the result however, the policeman was promised a consolation prize of \$5,000 (£3,300) and a four-day holiday.

### Attacker foiled

Guatemala City: President Arzu escaped unharmed from a bizarre attack in which a man tried to ram his lorry into the Guatemalan leader and his wife. They were riding horses prior to a visit by the Pope. The man was shot dead by bodyguards. (AP)

### Renewing ties

Amman: King Hussein will visit Saudi Arabia on Sunday, marking an end to the rift caused by the Gulf War when Jordan sided with Baghdad after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990. (Reuters)

### Loads of money

Rome: An Italian company that empties telephone boxes is paying its workers in coins because local banks refuse to accept the change. One worker's £2,500 redundancy payment weighed 280lb. (Reuters)

## Opposition waves the flag to beat Keating

Sydney: The Australian flag, which republicans want to change, if the country cuts its constitutional ties to Britain, took centre stage last night in the election battle between Paul Keating, the Labor Prime Minister, and John Howard, the Liberal leader (Roger Maynard writes). As the campaign entered its second week with Mr Keating trailing by 10 percentage points in the opinion polls, Mr Howard told his party faithful in Perth

that a coalition government would introduce laws to protect the national symbol.

Supporting a National Party plan to make it unlawful to change the Australian flag without public consent, he said: "I do not mind saying that I have a strong emotional, indeed, passionate commitment to the present Australian flag. I am unashamed about that. I think it is one of the most beautiful flags in the world."

Mr Howard said he was willing to

change the flag if that was the wish of most Australians. But he promised: "I will sponsor legislation to change the Australian flag Act to ensure that it can never be changed without all of the Australian people being consulted."

According to the latest *Sydney Morning Herald* survey, a clear majority of voters expect that in the general election on March 2 the coalition will beat Labor, which has been in power for 13 years.

## Afrikaans loses prime share of airwaves

FROM INIGO GILMORE  
IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's state broadcasting corporation, once a pillar of the apartheid regime, has been relaunched to reflect the cultural and linguistic demographics of the rainbow nation.

Changes to give all 11 official languages a representative share of airtime has prompted angry protests. Particularly controversial is the downgrading of Afrikaans from more than 30 per cent of the total broadcasting time to less than 5 per cent. English will dominate, while Afrikaans will share a secondary channel with four African languages, the third channel going to Zulu and Xhosa.

Several white Afrikaans and English-speaking presenters have been axed. Marietta Kruger, a veteran news presenter, made an emotional farewell appearance on last Friday's news with an appeal that Afrikaans be accorded its rightful place.

The issue has stirred heated debate between the political parties and has become entangled in the question of impartiality. The corporation's chief executive, Zwelake Sibisi, is the son of President Mandela's former cellmate, Walter Sibisi.

At the relaunch ceremony on Sunday night, Mr Mandela said: "We are shedding another layer in the baggage that has clouded our nation's vision of itself. We are here... to join you in acknowledging and reasserting your independence."

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# Arsonist behind mystery of French fires

**A Russian pilot takes a ride on his Sukhoi SU31 fighter in Singapore yesterday as it is towed into place for the Asian Aerospace '96 airshow, which begins today**


Some inhabitants maintained the town was under attack by laser beams from satellites. Six fires still remain officially unaccounted for.

Pyodortov was a local sear in the city of Cheboksary and has been negotiating with other centrist parties in an attempt to establish himself as their common candidate. He has recently had talks with Nikolai Ryzhkov, the former Soviet Prime Minister, and Aleksandr Lebed, the retired general.

He inveighed both against the current Government, which he said was turning Russia into a "colonial state", and against the Communist Party, which he said promised only a return to a bureaucratic enslavement by the party *nomenklatura*.

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## Defence unity approved

# Germans support integration except on monetary front

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A LARGE majority of Germans are in favour of European projects, including common foreign and defence policies, in spite of growing scepticism about economic and monetary union.

Opinion polls in the conservative *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* yesterday show that the Germans are broadly behind their Government when it comes to intensifying European integration in non-monetary matters.

The newspaper said that 71 per cent of Germans support a common foreign policy, 55 per cent want a common defence policy and 74 per cent favour a strategy against drugs. This, said the paper's chief European commentator, demonstrated that Germany was still wedded to the European idea.

"Because of their disappointment with the achieve-

ment of the European Union, citizens are looking at European institutions and the grand projects of the future with increasing, perhaps healthy, scepticism," conceded Klaus Dieter Frankenberger. "Even so, Germans expect much from Europe. These expectations are geared to security and welfare."

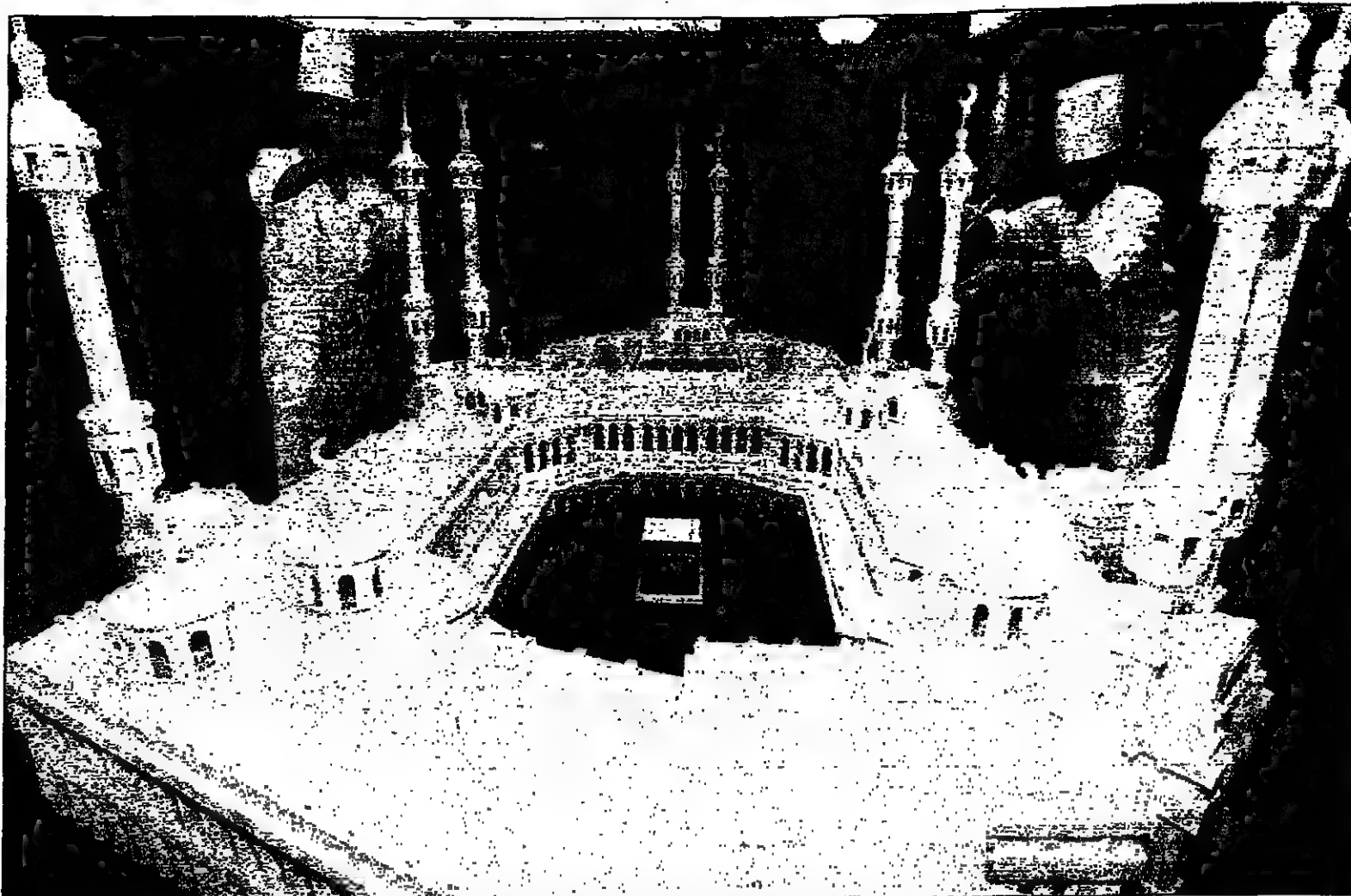
The gap between leaders and led on EMU has become a central preoccupation. On Thursday, Germany is likely to announce that unemployment has passed the four million mark — a psychologically critical level that will frame the political agenda. The Government will try to recast monetary union as a generator of jobs.

Bonn has promised to help to create two million jobs by 2000, providing unions restrain their wage claims. It

has not made clear how monetary union will fit into this so-called "alliance for work". The promised measures were coordinated to some degree with France.

Economic specialists from the French parliament will visit their counterparts in Germany tomorrow to work out how EMU, with its tough yardsticks on debt, budget deficits, inflation and exchange rates, could be presented as an employment-creating policy. Both Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, and Wolfgang Schäuble, the Christian Democrat parliamentary leader, have argued that the collapse of monetary union would unravel the single market, and that this would increase unemployment.

Anatole Kaletsky, page 18  
Letters, page 19



Chefs apply the finishing touches to a giant cake modelled on the Al-Haram mosque in Mecca, which went on show in a Jakarta hotel yesterday. The cake, which measures 28 square yards, took 2,000 hours to prepare, and included 176lb of icing sugar, 22lb of glucose, 66lb of palm sugar and about nine pints of egg white. The confection will be on display throughout the holy month of Ramadan

## Self-styled King of Guin gulls Texans

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A SMOOTH-TALKING African who claims to be King of Guin and last week received a red-carpet welcome to Texas was yesterday challenged to prove his bona fides.

François Ayl, who prefers to be addressed as "His Royal Highness King Ge Fiovi François A. Ayl of the Kingdom of Guin", has been delighting polite circles in Austin, Texas, with his regal manner and elaborately charitable sentiments. His every word was cherished, and among the matrons of Austin there developed a "rapacious market" for his company.

One person not convinced, however, was the state's attorney-general, Dan Morales, who issued Mr Ayl with a subpoena to produce documents confirming the charitable status of his "foundation". The deadline passed yesterday but there was no sign of the papers.

Mr Ayl, 33, claims to be monarch of Guin, part of the West African republic of Togo, and says his family's rule extends back to 1663. He sought funds to help the poor among his "people". Texas understanding of Togo's political system appears to have been sufficiently sketchy to allow him to convince generous hosts that he was an important man. A \$50 (£33) a plate fund-raising dinner on Friday night was supported by local politicians, and Mr Ayl was met at Austin airport by dignitaries. A taxi driver gave him his services free to the "king" and Austin's womenfolk practised their curtsies.

It now seems they were gulled. Rich Appleton, Togo desk officer at the US State Department, said: "The guy is very, very good at spinning stories. I can tell you this much. There's no kingdom and there's no king."

Togo's Embassy to the United States denied that he was a head of state and speculated that Mr Ayl merely springs from a mildly prominent family in the Togolese village of Glidji. There is no record of Mr Ayl sending money back to Togo's poor, and he last visited the country seven years ago. He has lived in America for ten years.

Robert Moffitt, a public relations specialist who has the title "chief protocol officer to King François A. Ayl" denied that Mr Ayl is a fake. "I doubt we would be going through this if he was a monarch from Britain," he said. "So let's not try him when he is down here on a mission of goodwill."

## Beatings admitted by police

Bonn: The German police admitted yesterday that they had manhandled, beaten or verbally abused individual foreigners but denied there was any widespread violation of regulations (Roger Boyes writes). The police union called for more anti-stress and communications training to help officers to cope with their problems.

The report was released at the same time as scathing accounts of German police behaviour were published by Amnesty International, the human rights group. Amnesty cited several cases, including that of a Turkish man detained in Frankfurt, who was allegedly handcuffed, then punched and kicked in his cell by two policemen.

## Troops clash

Lagos: Troops from Nigeria and Cameroon clashed over a group of islands known as the Bakassi peninsula, in the oil-rich Gulf of Guinea, with unconfirmed reports that several were killed. (Reuters)

## Mass sacking

Sanaa: Hundreds of Yemeni government officials have been sacked for alleged corruption and negligence, after an unannounced inspection by President Saleh of ten ministries. (AFP)

## Bhutto's strike

Karachi: A general strike called by Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister, in solidarity with the separatist uprising in Indian Kashmir brought business and economic life in Pakistan to a halt.

## Piracy pledge

Peking: Under American pressure, China has promised to fine or close publishers that supply licences to copyright pirates, hoping to close a loophole used to produce illicit compact discs. (Reuters)

## Africa birth risk

Geneva: Women in sub-Saharan Africa face a hundred times greater risk of dying during pregnancy and childbirth than those in Western Europe, according to a United Nations study. (Reuters)

## Snooker haul

Phnom Penh: Prompted by truancy, gambling and fighting among high-school students, police raided snooker parlours near schools, confiscating hundreds of snooker balls and cues. (AFP)

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## Warning before Taiwan poll

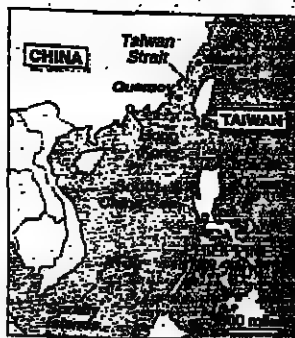
## Tension mounts as China mobilises 400,000-man force

FROM JAMES PRINGLE  
IN PEKING

A HUGE Chinese troop mobilisation along its eastern coast facing Taiwan, ahead of the first presidential elections there, led to mounting tension in East Asia yesterday.

Reports said the build-up of 400,000 men signalled China's determination to prevent Taiwan from declaring independence. Peking has accused President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan, who is almost certain to be re-elected in next month's polls, of seeking independent status for the republic.

Sing Tao Daily, a Hong Kong newspaper, reported that China would begin a massive, month-long military exercise this week. It will involve 400,000 infantry, air force and navy personnel, which the paper said showed



China's determination to keep Taiwan in check.

The report led to an initial fall in share prices in Taipei, the Taiwanese capital. President Lee declared that Peking was "scared to death" of the scheduled elections.

Peking has not commented so far on the Sing Tao report. Earlier reports, which had said massive military exer-

cises would be held near Taiwan either before or after the March 23 polls, were dismissed as "speculative".

Although there has been no independent confirmation of the build-up, Sing Tao said the Nanking military district had ordered all its forces to mobilise and that leave for troops had been cancelled.

Last week the United States State Department said it saw "no imminent threat" to Taiwan, but it was monitoring the situation.

Yesterday The Washington Post reported that US policy-makers had decided to issue a warning to China that it should cool tensions with Taiwan before any miscalculation led to a serious accident.

Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister, in a recent speech, did not rule out the use of force but also did not significantly make fresh threats against Taiwan. But a report by Xinhua, the Chinese news agency, at the end of last month said the success of a series of military exercises last year by the People's Liberation Army had shown that its "military quality have been significantly improved".

Diplomats in Peking said the reports of military action, whether true or false, suited China's style of keeping Taiwan off balance. But they said further Chinese exercises in the Taiwan Strait, of the kind that increased tensions during its missile tests last year, were fraught with risks.

The diplomats believe that Chinese "sabre-rattling" is also to do with uncertainties in domestic politics. Senior leader Deng Xiaoping, 91, is ailing and all sides involved in the succession issue want to show their nationalist credentials. □

Commentary: Two Taiwanese fishermen and three Chinese citizens were executed in China for involvement in the biggest case of smuggling fake currency into China. Chinese television said the counterfeit yuan were worth about £2.6 million. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 19



Wu Bangguo, left, China's Deputy Prime Minister, tours the Yunnan region hit by a massive earthquake at the weekend. The death toll may rise to 300 and casualties include a seriously injured foreign tourist

## Tremors persist in quake city

BY JAMES PRINGLE

THERE were two large aftershocks yesterday as hundreds of thousands of survivors of China's biggest earthquake in eight years struggled to keep warm in freezing temperatures.

One aftershock measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale shook the tourist town of Lijiang and surrounding villages in the remote Yunnan province in the southwest 30 hours after an earthquake measuring 7.0 killed 240 people and injured 14,000. There were fears that the final death toll could be nearer 300.

Among the injured was a foreign tourist, who was seriously hurt, and four other foreigners, who were slightly injured. There has been a second aftershock of 4.8 and about 180 smaller ones. Lijiang is home to the Naxi ethnic minority and is 1,300 miles from Peking.

More than 186,000 homes have collapsed leaving hundreds of thousands of people homeless, officials say. Those whose homes are intact are also staying on the streets, afraid to return indoors.

## Peking closing gap in arms technology

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE planned show of force by the Chinese in a military exercise in the strait separating China from Taiwan is seen in the West as a deliberate demonstration of power aimed at unsettling its capitalist neighbour.

However, although the reported month-long amphibious exercise involving 40 naval vessels and more than 100 aircraft will serve as a reminder of China's military power, Taiwan's continuing strength as the potential David to Peking's Goliath has been its acquisition of superior defence technology. China has always been a generation behind Taiwan in terms of its main weapons, although the Chinese are slowly narrowing the gap.

On paper, however, there is no contest. According to the International Institute for Strategic Studies in its latest Military Balance, China has

an army of 2.2 million, up to 8,000 main battle tanks, 2,000 light tanks, 4,300 armoured infantry fighting vehicles and armoured personnel carriers, 14,500 towed artillery pieces and 3,800 multiple-rocket launchers.

The Chinese Navy has 52 submarines, 18 destroyers, 32 frigates and about 870 patrol and coastal vessels. Its naval air force has 855 shore-based combat aircraft and 68 armed helicopters. It also has a marine force of 5,000 and 25,000 coastal defence troops. The Chinese Air Force has about 4,970 combat aircraft, some of them nuclear-capable.

By comparison, Taiwan has an army of 240,000, with 570 main battle tanks and 905 light tanks. Its navy consists of four submarines, 22 destroyers, 16 frigates and 98 patrol and coastal vessels. The Taiwanese Air Force has 430 combat aircraft.

## Relics prove Buddha was born in Nepal

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S few remaining Buddhist shrines, hurt and perplexed by the demise of their faith in the country of their birth, will be further wounded by news from Nepal that the Buddha was not an Indian.

An international team of scientists has reported finding relics under the Mayadevi temple in Lumbini, 200 miles southwest of Kathmandu, proving that Lord Buddha was born there. Most Indian history books proclaim that Guatam Siddhartha was born in northern India, although British encyclopaedias favour Nepal.

Archaeologists from Nepal, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Japan made the find nine months ago, but the Nepali Government delayed an announcement while it consulted other experts.

It is a matter of pride for all of us that the sacred

birthplace of 'Lord Buddha' has been discovered," Sher Bahadur Deuba, the Prime Minister, said.

This rewrite of Indian history is embarrassing, given that some books specifically state that the Buddha was born in Gorakhpur district in modern-day Uttar Pradesh.

The archaeologists found a commemorative stone on bricks dating from the era of Emperor Ashoka, a convert to Buddhism who ruled much of the Indian subcontinent and visited Lumbini in 249 BC. This tallies with ancient Buddhist literature that says he placed a stone on top of bricks at the site of Prince Siddhartha's birth, believed to have been in 623 BC.

Ashoka also built a nearby pillar, which still stands. There is now little doubt that this was meant as a marker for the Buddha's birthplace.

## Hong Kong officials get lesson in communism

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

THE Hong Kong Government has published a guide for civil servants on the Chinese Communist Party.

In 37 pages the booklet "aims to give our civil servants some idea of the basics of China in a self-learning form". Academics were commissioned to draft the survey, and were told to provide the facts only, the civil service spokesman added.

The Communist Party of China begins in the party's second year, 1921, and apart from a few comments the history ends in 1982. What civil servants are getting is a version approved by Deng Xiaoping, the senior leader.

The Deng version of party history emerged in its clearest form in 1981, with the Resolution on Certain Questions in Party History. In this version it is admitted that the party

and Chairman Mao Tse-tung made mistakes, some serious, in the period up to Mao's death in 1976, that Mr Deng had attempted unsuccessfully to prevent them while Mao was still alive, and thereafter set China on the right path.

The study's language resembles party style. The party's founders are remembered for "repudiating feudalism, advocating democracy and science, and promulgating Marxism... Feudalism is party jargon for the bad past.

Omissions mar the presentation. The most startling is omitting any mention of the Hong Kong branch of the party.

After 1949, no mention is made of the killing of at least one million landlords or of the persecution of hundreds of thousands of intellectuals. The break with the Soviet Union is unrecorded. Neither the catastrophe of the Cultural Revolution nor the Gang of Four is mentioned. The study ends in 1982, "beginning the era of Deng Xiaoping". The crackdown in Tiananmen Square is also left out.

Deng, colony printed his version of party history

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# Day two: Therapies around the world — and where the stars go

## Little Amber's Chinese cure

VIEW FROM ABROAD

● **FRANCE:** Alternative medicine enjoys a high level of respect among patients and the medical establishment, with many French GPs practising both homeopathy and acupuncture. More than one in three people use homeopathic remedies; however, such treatments are not reimbursed by social security.

● **GERMANY:** Some 50 per cent of the population say they use natural or herbal medicine and orthodox doctors have used elements of homeopathy and natural medicine since the 1920s. Spa cures have been a standard part of German culture for 200 years. Since 1950 they have also been available through the national health system, as are many of the costs of prescribed alternative treatments.

● **ITALY:** The medical establishment remains highly sceptical of alternative medicine. However, a population disappointed with the shortcomings of its ramshackle national health system is turning increasingly to homeopathy, acupuncture, traditional herbal medicine and shiatsu massage. But people have to pay, since most private insurance policies do not cover alternative remedies.

● **SPAIN:** Alternative medicine is widely practised in Spain and every major city has health shops offering everything from herbs to patent medicines. The attitude of the medical profession is one of cynical tolerance. South American doctors practising their own traditional medicine are popular here. Alternative treatments are not available on the health service.

● **ISRAEL:** Given the rapidly increasing popularity of alternative medicine, it is no surprise that a shop devoted to Chinese herbal recipes has opened in Jerusalem. Aromatherapy and reflexology are also fashionable. None of these can be obtained on the health service. Orthodox practitioners tend to oppose alternative treatments, apart from osteopathy and chiropractic, claiming their popularity is a symptom of increased stress.

● **UNITED STATES:** Alternative medicine is booming with oriental medicine becoming popular. Treatments are cheaper than orthodox medicine. America's 10,000 alternative practitioners are more regulated than in Britain. The first licences were issued to practitioners in 1974, and some have been successfully prosecuted for practising without a licence.

### Alternative health



TODAY

- The rise of Chinese herbal therapies
- Where celebrities take their treatment
- The risks of getting the diagnosis wrong

### CHINESE MEDICINE

When Amber Stanley-Bristowe was two weeks old, her parents were told that without a complex operation to remove her bile duct, their daughter had only months to live. Even if it was successful, she would spend the rest of her life on medication.

Desperate to avoid such a drastic measure, Donald and Karen Stanley-Bristowe decided to explore alternative remedies and were put in touch with the Chinese health centre run by Dr Duo Gao. "He took her pulses and touched her stomach before making up a herbal tea which I gave to her twice a day for about three weeks," Mr Stanley-Bristowe says.



Amber Stanley-Bristowe and her mother

Brian Wilce is another of Dr Gao's satisfied patients. Four years ago, aged 56, he developed diabetes and had resigned himself to a strict sugar-free diet and regular insulin injections.

After questioning him on diet and lifestyle, Dr Gao prescribed a combination of herbs and advised him to drink less alcohol. He had to return three weeks later and the "prescription" was modified. "About four months later Dr Gao told me I didn't need to come and see him any more." Using an Exactech blood glucose sensor, Mr Wilce found that his blood sugar level had fallen to near normal.

Dr Gao, considered one of the top five Chinese medicine practitioners in the world, works from the Chinese Herbal Medicine and Health Care Centre in Fulham, southwest London. Here, with shelves full of herbs, roots and beans, Dr Gao and his partner, Dr Yilan Shen, who are both trained in Western as well as Chinese medicine — treat disorders ranging from diabetes, allergies and infertility to chest pains and rheumatism.

Chinese medicine is primarily based on two books transcribed 2,000 years ago, the *Ben Chou Gan Mu* and the *Yi*



While Western doctors concentrate on specific, isolated areas of disease, Chinese herbal medicine emphasises the interaction of body, mind and spirit

Zheng Ji Jian, Dr Shen explains. While Western medicine tends to concentrate on specific, isolated areas of disease, Chinese herbal medicine emphasises the interaction of body, mind and spirit, together with man's relationship with the environment.

"We place a great deal of emphasis on the Qi [pronounced Chi], which is the life force, or vital energy of the person. Chinese doctors believe that this Qi can be improved and enhanced."

Where Western doctors look for a cause or causal agent such as an individual virus or bacterium, Chinese medicine will take into account the mental state of the patient, his or her environment, lifestyle and any events which may have resulted in imbalance.

A typical visit to the Fulham surgery takes around half an hour. Patients explain their problem and then their pulses are examined. "In the left wrist there are three points which correspond to the heart, liver and kidney," Dr Shen says. "In the right the three points relate to lung, stomach/spleen and kidney. There are 28 variations of pulse pace which enable us to identify things like high blood pressure." The doctors also evaluate tongue and facial colour.

"We then prescribe a combination of herbs, selecting around four from a total of 400 we could use. They are to be soaked in water, boiled and drunk," Dr Shen says.

There is scepticism over Chinese treatments — some doctors believe recovery is coincidental, or the result of an improved psychological attitude. There have also been well documented cases of poisoning apparently deriving from herbal potions.

These instances, Dr Shen says, are few and far between and the result of unscrupulous practitioners who have only superficial knowledge of Chinese medicine. Chinese doctors in Britain are hoping to establish a governing body to regulate their practice.

KATHRYN KNIGHT

## Where the smart set go

### FASHIONABLE CLINICS



Hale visitor: the Duchess

WITH its polished wooden interior and expensive tiles, The Life Centre, in west London, looks like an upmarket hairdresser. But the centre has become a haven for stressed professionals and celebrities such as Cher and Brian Eno.

At reception, you can buy rainbow crystals, Mayan chimes and rainsticks. The building has even been Feng-Shui-ed, to ensure that the building's maximum Qi or universal energy is maximised.

The Life Centre is to the gym what a kitten is to a rotweiler. "What we are offering is a natural lifestyle, which doesn't involve sweating buckets," says Jane Meyer, a reflexologist and centre administrator.

The centre specialises in dynamic yoga, a high-energy workout which involves

nearly every muscle and the utmost concentration on breathing. Visitors can also choose from a smorgasbord of alternative therapies, which range from more recognised treatments such as

acupuncture and osteopathy, to numerology. Prices vary from £7 for an hour's yoga class to £65 for an hour's psychotherapy.

While the Life Centre radiates New-Ageism, the Hale Clinic, the prototype of alternative health centres, bristles with efficiency. The Princess of Wales, the Duchess of York and Ruby Wax are among the clinic's 1,000 visitors a week.

"Many people see us as the last-chance saloon when conventional medicine has been unable to help," says Jane Marten, the sales manager. The dimly lit clinic's atmosphere is low-key and reassuring. Men and women in white coats hurry about. The air is filled with the slightly rancid aroma of health food,

emanating from the well-stocked shop.

New patients visit a "gatekeeper", one of 20 doctors, trained not only in conventional medicine but in a range of disciplines. From there they will be referred to one of the 100 therapists, specialising in everything from hypnosis to colonic irrigation, which was made famous by the Princess of Wales.

Treatments cost, on average, £50 an hour. "We do have a reputation of being very upmarket, but this is more than a spa," says Ms Marten. "This is about health, not lifestyles."

JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

Life Centre, 15 Edge Street, London W8 (0171-221 4802). Hale Clinic, 7 Park Crescent, London W1 (0171-431 0156).

## Approach alternative remedies with caution

### THE DANGERS OF MISDIAGNOSIS



DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

I FIRST encountered alternative medicine during my early months in a general practice in Norfolk. I was called to an isolated cottage to see a cowman. He was in bed, pale, thin and paralysed from the waist down. Apparently he had complained for several months of severe low back-ache; he had continued working although he was in agony and had lost weight. Desperate to rid himself of the torment he visited a local bone manipulator who twisted his spine this way and that way. There was a loud click and the cowman was paralysed. It later transpired he had secondary malignant growths in his spine and as cancerous bones are weakened it had fractured easily.

The cowman's case provided a valuable lesson: not that manipulation was necessarily unhelpful, for it can be miraculous, but that any spine which is going to be manipulated should first be carefully X-rayed and, in doubtful cases, examined with an MRI scanner.

In the 1950s and 1960s the BMA was very conservative. It was presided over by men of stature who, dressed in dark

suits and wearing watch chains, behaved like senior civil servants and shared the values of Mary Whitehouse. The idea that any qualified doctor would consider co-operating with an osteopath (unless medically qualified), a chiropractor or any other advocate of alternative medicine was anathema, and if detected in his or her iniquity the doctor would be struck off. I never shared the BMA or GMC views and disobeyed their dictats, for I had seen too many people helped by medically unqualified people practising one or other of the alternative medical arts. What was apparent from the case of the cowman and many other instances was that although masseurs and manipulators have great physical skills their powers of diagnosis are often exaggerated, and their understanding of basic medical science is not matched by clinical experience.

Manipulation was the first of the alternative medical skills to be accepted; unfortunately claims that it is able to cure a host of complaints which could only remotely be associated with the spine should be greeted with considerable suspicion. One practitioner not only lists a wide range of orthopaedic problems that can be alleviated but also asthma, fatigue, high blood pressure, sinusitis, heartburn, hiatus hernia, colitis, irritable bowel syndrome, diverticulitis, skin diseases and menstrual problems.

The study of herbs is often thought of as an alternative medicine but in the past the great majority of medicines were herbal. Traditional herbal medicines are still used and recent research has found new powerful drugs in plants, capable in some instances even of controlling cancer. However, dead cows that have eaten yew, or children

who have swallowed laburnum illustrate that all that is natural is not benign. Gabrielle Hatfield, in her book *Country Remedies*, describes a wide variety of plant nostrums which, within living memory, were still being used in country districts. She draws a distinction between traditional domestic medicines which used local plants and the advent of 19th-century herbal medicines which relied heavily on imported herbs. Research on Chinese herbal medicines by dermatologists at the Royal Free Hospital in London has not only confirmed their ability to succeed when orthodox medicines have failed, but has also demonstrated a power to cause serious side-effects.

The help that patients can derive from manipulation, herbal medicine, relaxation therapy and other complementary aids is clear. But that doesn't mean their practitioners have the training to make a diagnosis which, if delayed, could be life-threatening. Having spinal manipulation for back pain and indigestion could deprive the patient of an early diagnosis of cancer of the oesophagus. Consult your doctor first.

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# The pistol-packing mommas are back

Carrying a handgun has become *de rigueur* for America's rich and famous women. Quentin Letts on the return of the pearl-encrusted pistol

When Clarissa Bronfman disclosed the other day that she sometimes carries a miniature revolver in her handbag, it confirmed a trend that has gained ground in recent years. American women, quietly, calmly, are choosing to "pack heat", as the expression goes. The days of the pearl-encrusted pistol are back.

Gun dealers report a surge in the number of sales to women, and male instructors at shooting ranges no longer react with surprise when a "dame" arrives for a session of target practice. From female judges to single mothers, there appears to be a steady rise in handgun ownership.

The women have their role models — Cybill Shepherd, Dolly Parton and Joan Rivers — but for those who buy a gun as a fashion accessory there are as many who carry a "piece" for protection. Mrs Bronfman, who let slip her gun habit to American *Vogue*, is bright, beautiful and rich in her own right. Edgar Bronfman Jr, the whiskey heir, courted her with a bombardment of roses and love songs. He would fly 2,000 miles to take her out to dinner, and promised her the world. But Clarissa Alcock, as she then was, was no pushover. She demonstrated her independence at a restaurant one night when she produced from her handbag a highly polished gun and casually carried it to the car of the young man behind the coat-check counter. Joan Rivers has two guns, a .38 and a .357, as favoured by "Dirty Harry". Mary Lou Whitney, the philanthropist and unofficial queen of Kentucky and Saratoga society, feels comfortable with a pistol at her side. Billionaire John Kluge's former wife, Pat, is another ace shot, and Diane Feinstein, the Democrat Senator for California, has recently acquired a handgun permit. In New York City, which has the strictest gun control laws in America, permits are more readily given to the rich.

or to people in public life on the ground that they can demonstrate a greater need for self-protection. The process of acquiring a permit takes time and costs money. The net result is that packing a gun in your vanity bag is a sign of social status. Just as Lena Helmsley said that only "fitty" people pay taxes, so handgun ownership is for plutocrats.

At New York's Downtown Rifle and Pistol Club, where members can practise on a 75 ft range and load up on ammunition and gun chat, regulars include actresses, media babes and a female heart surgeon.

Sales of the Smith & Wesson LadySmith, a \$562 gun introduced four years ago at the first signs of the female gun growth, have done well. Frank Ingrassia, New York's top gun dealer, and head of the local branch of the National Rifle Association, sells the LadySmiths almost as fast as he can unpack them.

Derringer makes a weapon that is small enough to fit inside a belt buckle, though specialists say it is too small to be accurate, and sales of AMT's \$295 pistol, compact enough for the female hand, are flourishing.

Mr Ingrassia's John Jovino shop, near Chinatown, has window mannequins dressed in bulletproof vests and a huge gun sign over its front door. Inside, the lighting is harsh, the counters groan with firearms hardware, and there is a small of gun-oil. To this dedicated male shop, women arrive, all burgeoning "mommas". There have been diplomatic wives and Upper East Side heiresses, female lawyers and career girls. On the evening I visited the shop, a cool blonde squinted one eye in expert appraisal down a pistol barrel.

Mr Ingrassia has the air of a piano tuner and his delight is palpable when he pulls down two pearl-encrusted, gold-plated guns, one a Colt Automatic, the other a pretty Browning .25 Automatic. Though deadly, they are things of beauty. "Gold-plated guns say that

you're powerful in two ways," he says. "You've got money, and you've got that gun in your hand."

Quite apart from the self-protection aspects, women who carry guns have become one of Hollywood's erotic fixations. The opening credits of James Bond films feature the female forms alongside gun barrels and pistol grips, while movies such as *Thelma & Louise*, *Blue Steel* and *Natural Born Killers* have promoted an image of women in command of deadly weapons. We have come a long way since Doris Day's chirpy *You can't get a Man with a Gun* in *Columbia* jeans.

Photographs of women in gun magazines are increasingly common, and gun advertisements have appeared alongside the nappy ads in women's glossies. Larry Pratt,



Cybill Shepherd (top) and Joan Rivers (above) have become role models for women with handguns

the rape is carried out, but when the woman has access to a gun that figure drops to 3 per cent." Car bumper stickers note that "Nobody Ever Raped A 38" and Mr Pratt adds: "A guy's arduous cools when he sees a gun."

Mr Pratt tells the story of a woman he knows who urged her new husband to get rid of his gun, saying she would not have it in her house. Some days later she found herself alone in the house when burglars struck. Terrified, she looked herself in her bedroom. When she saw the door handle being turned she shouted: "You guys had better get out of here, because I have a gun."

The burglars promptly fled, and the woman is now not only a member of the local gun club, she is also, like Clarissa Bronfman, a first-class marks-woman.



## Sex change operations don't work

Nigella Lawson wonders if there is not a better way to solve the sufferings of transsexuals

I know, to my cost, that adverse comment about the Royal Family or the airing of insufficiently sentimental views about animals inevitably excite the biggest postbag. But for sheer virulence and threatening aggression — or perhaps rather more accurately, defensiveness — you cannot beat the transsexual correspondent.

I have twice, in completely different contexts, written about transsexuals. In neither case did I ridicule or sneer at those who claim to be trapped — that is inevitably, word for word, the complaint in the wrong body, but I did question them, and it and hence a batch of letters, the hostility of which is hard to convey.

Perhaps one of the most telling symptoms of the transsexual is that there is no other interpretation allowed of their malaise than the one they choose to put on it.

As tonight's moving television programme, *The Wrong Body* (part of Channel 4's *Decision* series) shows, even while transsexuals complain about the intolerance that the rest of us have for them and their condition, it is they who are so intolerant.

In the first instance, they cannot tolerate their sex. In fact are so unable to tolerate it that the only way they have of dealing with it is first to deny it and then, if possible, to do away with it.

But this intolerance extends to a refusal to consider any other explanation for their distress, indeed to a tendency to feel annihilated by any such unauthorised approach. There is obviously an identity problem here, but I cannot help feeling that it is not one that can always so easily be solved with a sex-change operation — or, as it is now called, gender reassignment.

The issue of this operation, and whether it should be available on the National Health Service, is becoming ever hotter. More and more health authorities are refusing treatment, and indeed only last week a number of transsexuals who have been unable to receive the treatment they want on the NHS began legal action to try to enforce their rights to it.

At the same time, a rather more straightforward legal battle is being fought to

allow transsexuals to alter their birth certificates following surgery, so that their given sex accords with the sex they have been changed into. I'll agree that it does seem crassly illogical to allow people to have sex-change operations perfectly legally, but then use the law to prevent their living as the sex they've, to all intents and purposes, become.

What I'm not saying is that such operations should be outlawed. Those who want undiseased breasts and

right? I know psychiatric care is already provided, but there must be some kind of approach that might help people to really work out what is at the root of this incredible distress.

I was stunned in the programme by two unconnected comments by a couple of the girls who wish to be boys. The one, in her late teens, spoke of her/his horror at developing breasts at puberty. "I wanted to be like my father," The other, a child of 13, brought



April Ashley, left, Britain's best-known transsexual

wombs and penises removed are right, of course, to say that it is their body, their choice. The NHS may also be right, at times, to respond that it is their budget, their choice. But it must be wrong for the issue to be decided on grounds of funds and finance. The question is, what is the nature of the problem and what therefore is the appropriate treatment?

Treatment there should definitely be — these people are suffering horrendously — but I cannot see that this should inevitably be in the form of surgery. All transsexuals are utterly convinced that they are, as they say, trapped in the wrong body. But does this make them

up by mother and stepfather, said that she/he wanted to be called Rick — "short for Richard which is my Dad's name". You don't need to be Freud to see there is something going on there. The voiceover of tonight's programme, however, reported that some post-operative transsexuals showed that their brains accorded with the sex they thought they should be rather than with the sex their genes made them. This, if true, would indeed be staggering evidence, though the vague, unscientific nature of its reporting hardly makes it sound, thus far, conclusive. ● The *Decision*: *The Wrong Body* is on Channel 4 at 9pm.



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## Look out for the red-head with platinum labels



SIGN OF THE TIMES

by Giles Coren

AT FIRST glance, the well-groomed business traveller, with his Louis Vuitton luggage and 96-page passport, may not appear to have much in common with the snooty-nosed Cub Scout, more concerned with his woggle than world trade. But they share an obsession — both will do anything to get a gold badge.

The blue, silver and gold tiers of British Airways' Executive Club have become the most important indicators of rank since the erosion of the class system, and an accompanying snobbery is rife.

The Executive Club is linked to the Air Miles scheme, a reward for regular business travellers who would not otherwise bother to shop around. But the colour of your membership card is as much about *ludos* as convenience.

Bottom of the line is the blue card, issued to any business flyer, and used to register the Air Miles which may one day yield a free trip to Torremolinos. But make, say, consecutive return trips to Sydney, New York and Paris, and you have the 700 points needed for promotion to silver membership.

The new card will get you into the executive lounges normally reserved for first

and club-class travellers. You will also get the silver luggage tags which are the must-have accessory of the modern traveller, and make you king of the airport.

Until, of course, someone arrives with a gold tag on his briefcase. He will have made at least another three trips to Australia, and can expect airport staff to notice his label and whisk him off for priority check-in, free travel insurance, bump-ups to first class, and general sycophancy.

Rampant one-upmanship has members slapping as many tickets on their bags as they can, to taunt their envious co-travellers. But according to Alex McWhirter of *Business Traveller* magazine, the scheme has its dark side.

"In America," he says, "people are so desperate for gold status that they take roundabout routes to accrue Air Miles — flying New York to London via Zurich, for example — and agents are

having to police business routes because 'clubbers' are costing companies money."

Suddenly, no more registering Air Miles in your wife's name to beat the taxman — for without them your status will remain blue. And no more unclaimed Air Miles either — at present there are 2.75 billion in circulation, enough to take an adventurous businessman to Neptune.

One mystery remains. "There is a premier card," a BA spokesman told me. "But we do not talk about it. I can say no more than that it is issued only to our most valued customers." Rumour holds the card to be platinum, but who has one and how far they had to go is shrouded in secrecy. The Duchess of York, it is said, must now be close to the premier league. So if ever you see a red-head in sunglasses with platinum tags on her luggage, you can be fairly sure it is someone using up her free mileage.



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# Judgment day for the educators

Chris Woodhead charts the way forward for failing schools

Primary schools, for so long the poor relation of secondary, are now very much in the public eye. The most important conclusion in my annual report as Senior Chief Inspector of Schools, published yesterday, is that standards of literacy and numeracy must be raised. The second is that the quality of teaching in the junior age range must be improved significantly in perhaps half of all primary schools.

Why does underachievement remain endemic in so many schools? Why is it that, despite the hard work and dedication, the genuine concern for children which the majority of teachers demonstrate, it is proving so hard to raise standards? If some schools can do it, why can't others? Why is it that standards need to be raised in half of all primary schools, when in others the quality of teaching and standards of pupil achievement are so exceptionally high? What is happening in these outstanding schools which has yet to happen in many others?

Over the past year or so, I have put these questions to primary head teachers in meetings across the country. Nobody can defend a situation in which between 20 per cent and 30 per cent of lessons are unsatisfactorily taught. So why has nothing happened?

One set of answers concerns the context in which teachers work. If primary schools had more resources, I am told, then standards would immediately rise. If the media, fuelled by evidence from "negative and punitive" inspection reports, did not focus remorselessly on weaknesses and depress morale, then all would be well. If the Government had not "imposed" an unworkable national curriculum and pushed through a huge programme of reform at unworkable speed, then, I am told, there would be no problem.

There is a truth in each of these responses. A minority of schools are clearly experiencing significant difficulties in providing resources for the national curriculum. Ofsted has a responsibility to identify success as well as failure. I recognise that the national curriculum has had to be revised.

But these arguments are not a sufficient explanation. The problems lie as much within the profession as without. To begin with, there is the pressing need to do more than has been done in the past about the minority of incompetent teachers who are failing our children. They are an extremely serious problem, but, given proper management will, it is relatively tractable.

What is much more difficult — being both more nebulous and more pervasive — is the failure to question beliefs, about the nature of education and how children should be taught, which in practice obstruct their intellectual development. I have in mind, for example, the belief that the national curriculum militates against the teacher's

responsibility to develop the unique potential of each child; the antipathy to didactic teaching, and the reluctance to challenge children which flows from the concept of the teacher as a facilitator. Above all else, the continuing commitment to such ideas in too many schools explains why it is proving so difficult to raise standards of primary education.

We must, therefore, probe these beliefs. In part, they stem from the influence of academics and educational advisers who are not convinced of the need to rethink current assumptions about what and how children should be taught.

Furthermore, primary teachers, unlike their secondary colleagues, have never had a professional identity which relates to the subject they teach. The secondary teacher is usually a graduate in a particular discipline. Not so the primary teacher, who, after four years spent studying a range of academic subjects and a number of courses in the theory and practice of education, has, more often than not, to teach all nine subjects of the national curriculum. So, inadequately prepared, and faced with a challenge of this magnitude, some primary teachers understandably embrace an educational theory which plays down the importance of intellectual content, and puts a concern for the child at the heart of the educational process. Everything possible, therefore, must be done in the initial and in-service training of teachers to ensure that they have the firm grasp of the subject knowledge they need.

Beyond this, the key to raising standards lies in the new system of school inspections. Before 1992, a primary school could expect to be inspected once every 200 years. Now it is once every four years. As a consequence, the gap between the achievements of the outstanding and the failure of the weaker schools has been thrown into sharp relief. This is true not just when comparing schools in leafy suburbs with those in inner cities. Schools serving very similar communities achieve very different results. The clearer this variation in achievement becomes, the less easy it is for anyone to justify it.

Not surprisingly, those who feel most threatened by the spotlight of accountability have mounted a vigorous attack on an inspection regime which they deem to be "judgmental" and "punitive". Judgmental, yes. To inspect a school obviously means coming to a conclusion about its strengths and weaknesses. If a school is failing, then its weaknesses need to be brought out into the open, so that parents are informed and something can be done. But is this really "punitive"? Only, I would have thought, to those teachers who are unable to accept that they must be accountable to the parents of the children they teach.



## Stringing us along

Michael Heseltine is wrong to defend late payers who are indebted to small businesses to the tune of £20 billion

Witty, adventurous, untroubled by scruple, Becky Sharp of *Vanity Fair* is one of the great archetypes of literature. Nobody, from her landlord to the baby's wet-nurse, was paid if it could be avoided; she haggled out of old debts at ninepence in the pound, and immediately borrowed more. When she did pay a little on account, she did it with such pretty speeches that the creditors were lulled into a false security. Michael Heseltine would have been proud of her.

That novel was published in 1847, and proves that 150 years ago there was already a recognised and established tradition in this country of, as Mr Heseltine has jovially put it, being "quite skilful at stringing along the creditors". Late payment, he said, is part of the culture of British business. Challenged, he stuck to his guns, saying that growing businesses need tolerance. "It is precisely because I started a small business from scratch, lived with the problems of it, accepted the discipline of it and survived the competitive race that I am not disposed to listen to a lecture."

Read that carefully, twice. We shall come back to it. It is a not unappealing argument, especially from a man who now seems so rich and secure. The Deputy Prime Minister could have turned respectable on us and denied his past; his party rather wishes he had. But no, he is still proud of the fact that he started out with a tiny capital and muscled his way into the big league. "Everyone got paid in the end, and that is all they care about," he added.

Yesterday his old business partner, Ian Josephs, elaborated on how they did it. They sent out cheques with only one signature, which were then refused by the bank, and pretended it was a mistake. They made sure words and figures on the cheque did not match (banks used to check such things). "If someone did serve a writ," says Mr Josephs, "So what? You don't answer it or you say you don't owe it. If it got to court, by then you would have the money and you could pay the bloke... It is just a question of nerve." Indeed, he does not even mention the dozen other routine tactics for delaying due payments.

You can pretend the invoice never arrived, query the VAT number, or laughingly explain that another supplier of the same name has been credited with the "moneys". You can confide that Accounts has relocated to

Swindon; or say in hushed tones that Denise handles group C payments, and Denise's golden-haired child has just been rushed to hospital with a mystery virus. There is the BBC gambit (although I absolve them from doing it on purpose) in which a saintly, aggrieved voice says that since you live in Suffolk, you were "obviously" handled from Birmingham "until the changeover", so that explains it. Or you can claim a computer virus. A really skilled late-payer can manage to make a creditor feel thoroughly silly for asking after a missing £300, and simultaneously dangle a potential £3,000 job in front of him as a distraction.

The one thing these cowboys rarely do, for all their fabled nerve, is to come right out with it and say they are a bit strapped at the moment, but confident that a postal order will turn up any minute. Such straightforwardness is not in what Mr Heseltine calls the "culture". Business is about bravado and bluff, and ruder words which you may fill in at your leisure while waiting for your favourite debtor to pick up the telephone. These b's add up to £20 billion overdue in Britain at any given moment. Government action on late payment is often praised but never quite delivered. Bravado and bluff continue to make fortunes — and to cost money and time and efficiency and livelihoods. The CBI says one in five small firms feels its very survival threatened by late payment.

Which is where we come back to Mr Heseltine. He claimed to speak on behalf of small businesses needing "tolerance" of their stringing-along behaviour. He himself has "lived with the problems and accepted the discipline" (what discipline?) There is something perilously seductive about that line of talk, and there is no point in us holy-joe chattering condemning it out of hand. Some of the audience, especially in his own age group, will

have been nodding. The idea of being a nippy little scavenger in the business jungle, "stringing along" big meanies, has some attraction. Most of my friends and neighbours are small traders of some kind, from journalists to caterers, and most of us say things like "If we go, the NatWest goes with us!" However, decent people pay smaller local operators — feed merchants, plumbers, barbers, crockery hirers — on the nail, if not on the day, so transferring the risk instantly to the poor old bank.

But the trouble is, and Mr Heseltine did not acknowledge this, that today it is not the cheeky little jackals who benefit most from this "culture" of late payment. It is the lords of the jungle who have learnt to play the game. For every chirpy little company which uses late payment to help its cashflow, there are a dozen which are victims of it.

All the research, including the Latham commission's report on the construction industry, suggests that what happens is this. Your small specialist supplies a giant company. Whether you are a grover of Brussels sprouts being patronised by a supermarket chain or a supplier of chic tiling for executive homes, a big client is a big break. You rejoice in the order and meet the deadline. The giant doesn't pay. Your wage bill must be met. You sweat, you remortgage your house, you run up an expensive overdraft: you turn down other business because you can't buy materials. But you dare not complain because this is a major customer. They could drop you, and put the word around at lively dinners that Tibbott's Tiles or Sussex Sprout Farms is bad news. So you wait. They pay — eventually, but sometimes too late. Any small, precarious operator, from voice-over artists to engineering components manufacturers, will

tell you how the fear of going broke struggles with the fear of offending influential clients, and how debilitating it is, sapping creativity, confidence and the very will to survive.

A large company with a legal department can always bully a small one; the reverse is not true. Possibly when naughty young Mike was "stringing along the creditors" in the 1960s, things were different. Perhaps big companies had not become so soft, or unscrupulous. Perhaps — since he dealt in bed-and-breakfast hotels and magazines — he mainly experienced the kind of customers who have to pay upfront, and never suffered from late payers himself. Either way, in the ecology of modern British business, his apology for the string-along culture is weak, dated and unethical.

Moreover, while it may fatten a few big cats, it does nothing for the nation at large. Unethical business is an enemy of prosperity. One company may enrich itself by hanging on to another's money, but the collapse of the creditor firm will cost every taxpayer something. I would take it further: if businesspeople take stupid, grandiose, Maxwellian, Baringesque risks with imaginary money, there will always be Maxwellian or Baringesque trouble. Margaret Thatcher spent much of the 1980s lecturing us on sound money and good housekeeping, but by some oversight she failed to notice that business was actually behaving more and more like Becky Sharp. And there is no such thing as notional money: it is always somebody's.

Thackeray's account of Becky Sharp ends with a timeless account of the effect all this picturesque buccaneering actually has:

When we read that a nobleman has left for the Continent and owes six or seven millions, the defeat seems glorious even, and we respect the victim in the vastness of his ruin. But who pities a poor barber who can't get his money for powdering the footmen's heads; or a poor carpenter who has ruined himself by fixing up ornaments and pavilions for my lady's dejeuner; or the poor devil of a tailor who has pledged all he is worth and more to get the liveries ready which my lord has done him the honour to bespeak? — when the great house tumbles down, these miserable wretches fall under it unprepared — before a man goes to the devil himself, he spends plenty of other souls' tithes.

Of course, Mr Heseltine was able to pay everybody, eventually. Lucky, eh?

## Libby Purves

## Betrayal of honest thinking

Bring back imagination, says Anatole Kaletsky

What will become of Europe if Europeans lose their capacity to think? As they mouth slogans about competitiveness and the challenge of the global market, Europe's politicians and businessmen are in danger of forgetting that Europe has one and only one genuine competitive advantage: the capacity to think, to argue, to defy conventional authority and so to innovate. If Europeans lose the ability to think openly and critically, we will indeed be overtaken by such closed societies as China, not to mention Korea and Singapore.

Yet clear, honest thinkers are an endangered species in Europe. Many politicians, especially in Brussels and Paris, seem determined to extinguish critical debate in European public life. And the paralysis seems to be spreading to business.

This is the frightening thought that struck me at the World Economic Forum, an intellectual cornucopia served every winter in the Swiss resort of Davos to a thousand businessmen by an astonishing array of politicians, economic officials, management theorists and Nobel prize-winning scientists and artists. This year two contradictory leitmotifs ran through the forum. For the Americans and Asians, the Central Europeans and even many of the Russians, the future seemed to be full of the excitement of new technology and new political systems, the opportunities of entering the global market and recasting management structures in a world of constant innovation and rapid growth.

But the West Europeans seemed to be living on a different planet. For our politicians, the great issues were not the future of Russia or America's increasing lead in the industries of the future, but monetary union and EU enlargement. For our businessmen, competitiveness was not about harnessing technology or turning change into a factor of competitive advantage; it was a matter of governments reducing regulation, unions accepting lower wages and electorates agreeing to welfare reforms.

The Americans and Asians seemed to be pulling out of the gloom of the last recession, preparing for growth and taking responsibility for their own future. The Europeans seemed always to be looking backwards — to the Treaty of Maastricht or to the heyday of the welfare state — and trying to pass the buck, from business to government or from politicians to central bankers.

Worse still was the absence of honest debate or intellectual curiosity among the Europeans. Monolithic thinking is suffocating Europe's political culture. The obsession with EMU has distracted politicians from much more important matters, such as the relationships with America and Russia, reform of the welfare state and even the monetary arrangements between the dollar and the mark. To make things worse, having focused all their attention on EMU they have now declared EMU off bounds for serious debate. The future of Europe is — deemed to — revolve around EMU, but any open discussion about EMU is deemed anti-European. Ergo it is now and European to discuss Europe's future.

This conspiracy of silence explains much of the disillusionment with politics in Europe as well as the woeful mismanagement of monetary policy in both Germany and France. But who struck me in Davos was that monolithic thinking also threatens Europe's economic and business life. Consider Europe's present obsession with competitiveness. International competitiveness, like EMU, probably the wrong issue to preoccupy Europe's businessmen in 1996. But more serious still, the ne political correctness has made impossible even to discuss competitiveness intelligently.

International competition is certainly not the only reason why Europe's unemployment is so high, why our welfare states must be reformed. Unemployment is also caused by lack of demand, bad management and labour relations and backward industrial structure. Welfare state needs reform because it will eventually go bankrupt, because of competition from Japan and America.

But suppose I am wrong and I root cause of Europe's problems high labour costs, relative to America and Japan. Then economics suggests a simple, quick and reliable answer: monetary policy until Europe currencies fall sharply against the dollar and yen. In practice, such a valuation might not be easy or may have unwelcome side-effects, but discussing competitiveness without mentioning monetary policy is either ignorant dishonesty. Yet that is exactly the intellectual betrayal now being endorsed.

So there you have it. European politicians have imposed on themselves a vow of silence over what I have deemed the most important issue of the decade: EMU. European business leaders refuse to discuss central issue in the competitive debate. Perhaps the outlook for Europe really is grim in a new century when the only currencies of value are knowledge, imagination and independent thought.

## Stable for two

IT IS A marriage that even the most sceptical punter would rate a racing cert to breed success. Frankie Dettori, the irrepressible Italian-born jockey, who has twice been British champion, is to marry Catherine Allen, daughter of Cambridge University's first pro-

fessor of equine reproduction. Dettori, 25, who on Lammtarra won Ascot's King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, as well as the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe last year, met Catherine at the yard of the trainer David Loder, where she rides. She is



Frankie and Catherine: at the starting line

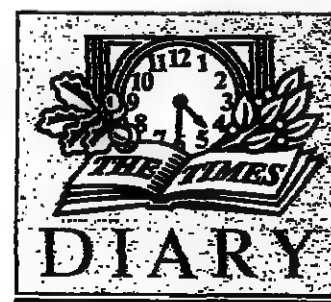
training to be a teacher, but has an excellent racing pedigree. Her father is Professor "Twink" Allen who in the autumn took up his regius saddle at Cambridge, after consulting on stud reproductive matters for Sheikh Mohammed. The jockey has an infectious laugh, and his flamboyant dismounting style has raised eyebrows in the winner's enclosure. But when it came to proposing, he took a leaf out of the chivalrous book of old, popping the question in an Italian restaurant with an attentive audience. A hush descended as fellow diners held their breath to see if she would accept.

"It was a nerve-racking experience, but during the dessert I got on my knees and asked her, and she said yes," says Dettori. Lammtarra apparently tops the wedding invitation list.

### Beer here

TONY BLAIR has accepted a sporting challenge in the House of Commons this Thursday, which should calm fears that he is deserting the ale-and-sandwiches brigade of old Labour.

On Thursday, he will be picking up his arrows and "toeing the oche" in a darts match to commemorate ten years of the provision in the Commons of Federation. The



Newcastle beer. His opponent will be John Lowe, twice world darts champion, who is no more shapely than John Prescott.

• The rougher types at Westminster are questioning William Hague's bottle. The Welsh Secretary was not at Twickenham for the England-Wales match on Saturday. Was it that, as an Englishman — and Yorkshireman to boot — he would have felt uneasy cheering for Wales? Or could he not bear the humiliation of gunning for the losing side?

### Feather retort

THOSE grappling with the estate of Brodick Haldane, the delightful society photographer who died last week, are scratching their heads. What to do with his birds? For

years, Haldane let canaries and finches fly free around his flat in India Street, Edinburgh, making for hazardous tea-parties.

Nigel Buchanan-Watt is feeding the six finches and four canaries for now. "If they have names, then only Brodick would know," he says. "Perhaps he made provision for them in his will, but we may well be looking for new owners."

### Global reach

DOUGLAS HURD is soon to present a BBC documentary series on international relations, but his journalistic career is still burgeoning. The former Foreign Secretary has just signed up to write a column for the Toronto *Globe and Mail*.

Have British editors shunned him in the mistaken belief that he is too gentlemanly to produce a lively column? *The Globe and Mail* is not considered a light read, but Hurd's column will surely be no match for that of the former American Secretary of State, James Baker, whose pronouncements are syndicated worldwide to an open-mouthed audience of insomniacs.

• The Tory candidate for South East Staffordshire, Jimmy James, is aware of the pitfalls of constituency canvassing. At the 1992 elec-

tion, he was fighting Dennis Skinner in Bolsover, unaware of the popularity of the northern comedian Jimmy James, who died in the 1960s. Approaching one house in Bolsover, he announced: "I'm Jimmy James." Bolsover man replied: "And I'm Donald Duck. Now clear off."

### Chill out

FORTUNATELY for South Africa's High Commissioner in London, his country's Transport Minister Mac Maharaj is a forgiving man. In London to speak to businessmen, he was greeted by locked doors when he arrived 20 minutes early for a function at South Africa House.

The Minister and other VIPs stood outside in sub-zero temperatures while someone tried to persuade conscientious security guards to open up. Last September, Bantu Holomisa, the deputy Tourism Minister, had a similar experience. Mr Maharaj, who was imprisoned on Robben Island with President Mandela, said that he and his friends had "thought about staging a demonstration out there, but someone opened up just in time".

P-H-S





## STAND BY TAIWAN

The West should not turn a blind eye to Peking's provocation

If Russia were to threaten missile attacks on a neighbour, the West would act swiftly to impress on Moscow that military intimidation was intolerable. By contrast, there has been barely any response, even in the US, to equally menacing behaviour by China. Over the past year, Peking has sold missiles and nuclear technology to Iran, grabbed the Mischief Reef on the disputed Spratly Islands, laid claim to parts of Indonesian waters and harassed shipping in the South China Sea. Above all, it has set out to intimidate Taiwan, the prosperous and newly democratic island off China's southeast coast to which Chiang Kai-shek fled in 1949.

Western assumptions that China will not cross the line between psychological warfare and military action against Taiwan require urgent and sceptical review. Having tested the Pentagon's reflexes with a series of military exercises last year, powerful factions in the Chinese military appear to have concluded that America will not intervene.

The uneasy truce with Peking over Taiwan's future has ended since Taiwan's conversion to democracy, which will be complete with next month's direct presidential elections. China sees these elections as a symbolic step towards independence. Officially, Taiwan continues to hold that it is part of "one China", to be peacefully reunited one day with the mainland. But political liberty has given rein to a flourishing Taiwanese opposition which demands — with some historical justification — sovereign independence. President Lee Teng-hui, the almost certain winner, has sought international recognition short of independence for Taiwan, including membership, as a self-governing territory, of the UN and other international bodies. Elected, he will be strongly placed to press his case that reunification should wait until China has the same democratic, free-market system as Taiwan.

China has always maintained that it would invade Taiwan if it declared independence. Now faced by what it sees as an intolerable affront by a "renegade province", it has deliberately blurred that line. It justifies the use of force on pretexts so vague that they could cover almost any Chinese whim.

"chaos" in Taiwan, or a decision that Taiwan's politicians were covertly bent on "splitting the motherland". In a speech last week Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister, threatened to act against "foreign forces who attempt to interfere in China's reunification" — a clear "hands-off" signal to America. This month, China is reported to be planning massive military manoeuvres in Fujian province, which lies opposite Taiwan, and has been declared a "war zone" by Peking. It has pointedly declined to deny reports that it will subject the island to daily missile attacks in the wake of next month's elections.

China could decide on a pre-emptive strike, forcing a rupture between China and America with global implications. The Pentagon consensus is that China is not yet capable of invading. But it could easily launch missile attacks on Taiwan's petrochemical industry, or mount a blockade of the Taiwan Straits by mining seaways and sealing major ports. Taiwan has fuel and food reserves for only a few months.

China's neighbours would prefer to look the other way. Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew likened China's grab on the Spratlys last year to "a big dog lifting his leg". Although such leg-lifting is incompatible with China's obligations under international law, even America seems reluctant to say so firmly. It slipped the aircraft carrier *Nimitz* through the Taiwan Straits last December, but then diluted this already modest message by giving "inclement weather" as the reason.

Indecision is dangerous. China has a history of chaotic and violent changes of dynasty. Contenders for Deng Xiaoping's mantle are tempted to bring the patriotic drum. At such times the military, ardently courted by President Jiang Zemin, exercises enormous influence. Indecision would also be politically hazardous for President Clinton: the Taiwan lobby is one of the strongest in Congress. Before China goes further, he needs to leave Peking in no doubt that, whatever Taiwan's legal status, its right to be left in peace has his determined support. China will denounce any firmness as barbarian provocation. China is the provoker. The greatest risk lies in turning a blind eye.

## MUST TRY HARDER

Woodhead paints a gloomy picture of teaching practice

Why are British school standards so low? Not enough money, surely, one side of the much-loved "input/output" argument. Yesterday the still, small voice of Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, brought some calm reason to the debate. The problem lies with neither of the above, he argues, but with the educational philosophy and poor quality of many teachers.

Mr Woodhead, in his annual report, concedes that a small minority of schools could benefit from more books and equipment, or better accommodation. But cash does not solve the problem of poor teaching in new schools. Nor is the structure and management of education necessarily the culprit. When the intelligence of pupils is taken into account, grant-maintained schools do no better than their local authority counterparts.

His findings make depressing reading. "Secondary schools often receive pupils with very low levels of literacy." Standards of numeracy "remain disappointing". A slowing in pupil progress in the first two years of primary school "has become a worryingly persistent feature of inspection findings" and "is strongly associated with a fall in the quality of teaching". Overall, standards of achievement need to be raised in about half of primary and two fifths of secondary schools.

Many of the problems could be addressed simply with a change of attitude among teachers and heads. Research conducted by Ofsted and other bodies provides a wealth of guidance about which teaching methods work best. The use of phonics (sounding out letters) in reading, more whole-class teaching, and the grouping of children by ability

all lead to higher standards. Teachers who are ideologically opposed to these practices must bend their minds if their pupils are not to suffer as a result.

A more specific problem, however, is the dip in standards in the second half of primary schooling. Here teachers often lack confidence in some subjects; this insecurity feeds through to the children. It is hardly surprising that the standard of teaching falls when teachers are expected to be equally competent in English, mathematics, geography, science, history, design, religious education and information technology — all at the level required by a ten-year-old. Private schools see the merit of moving to specialist teaching at the age of eight; state schools, as far as possible, could follow suit.

Mr Woodhead identifies about 15,000 teachers who can be classed as "poor". Some may be irredeemably so, and should not remain in their jobs. But others could benefit from further training in the subjects in which they are weak. Here, targeted extra spending would surely bear fruit. For the education of a child can be blighted, sometimes for good, by having a bad class teacher for a whole year of primary education.

The other way of raising standards in primary schools is to give parents more information. So it is welcome, if overdue, that Gillian Shephard has agreed to publish league tables of 11-year-old test results. At the moment, parents have little more than word of mouth to rely on in choosing a primary school. From next year, they will have hard facts. Primary schools will then have all the incentives to improve that are already raising standards in the secondary sector.

## HEROES OF SPORT

Australia must play up, play up and play the game

The current Australian cricket team may be good at winning cricket matches, but they confirmed yesterday that they lack their predecessors' understanding of the game's true spirit. In deciding to forfeit their match against Sri Lanka in the forthcoming World Cup — to be played in Colombo — they have acted neither with courage nor with dignity. Instead, they have upset the organisation of a complex tournament and handed a propaganda victory to the murderous Tamil rebels who hold Sri Lanka to ransom.

Cricket has never lacked squabbles and stiffs, but not since the Bodyline series has the game been such a fertile source of diplomatic friction. Consider the words of Lakshman Kadirgamar, the urbane Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, spoken yesterday to Gareth Evans, his Australian counterpart. "If any campaign is mounted by the Australian Government to persuade other countries not to come for their matches, it would be considered a hostile act in relations with the Government of Sri Lanka." The West Indies appear, on latest accounts, to have followed the Australian example, but there can be no doubt that the cricket administrators of the distant Caribbean islands would not even have contemplated such a step had not Australia set such a craven example.

Inevitably there will be pressure on Col-

ombo to concede the political match. If two of the four games cannot take place, the island leg of the World Cup will of course be devalued by those who fail to meet their sporting commitments. Yet few love their cricket more passionately than do the Sri Lankans, and the security guarantees extended to all players by the Government there — "equivalent to that provided for visiting heads of state or government" — ought to calm the panic of all but the most fearful. If those arrangements would be good enough for the Queen or Paul Keating, the Australian Prime Minister, they ought to be good enough for Shane Warne. There is an offer, also, to fly the players in and out from south India on the day of the match itself.

Since the World Cup does not begin until the 14th of this month, pressure will not abate to transfer matches from Sri Lanka to India or Pakistan. Ultimately, the decision to play or not to play — and where — depends on the organisers of the tournament, in close consultation with the host Governments. The Sri Lankan games may eventually be played elsewhere, but that would be a no-ball. A strife-torn island would be deprived of important days of sport and pleasure. The terrorists would have won a victory. Australia's cricketers, winners on the field, have lost an important game off it.

## Heseltine's bills advice under fire

From Mrs Barbara Roche, MP for Hornsey and Wood Green (Labour)

Sir, The criticism of the Deputy Prime Minister for boasting about not paying creditors on time ("Heseltine attacked for bill advice", report, February 5) is amply justified. John Gummer, however, cannot get away with saying that government "has set itself the target of becoming a best-practice client".

Answers to parliamentary questions I have recently received suggest that last year across Whitehall at least £282 million was paid late by government departments, and the worst offender — the Treasury — paid 25 per cent of its bills late.

Yet, like Mr Heseltine, ministers do not seem unduly concerned about this. Angela Knight, economic secretary to the Treasury, wrote to the Director-General of the CBI last month that her department's record for late payment of bills between the end of the 1994-95 and the start of the 1995-96 financial year was "not exactly the 'crisis' it has been portrayed".

I have asked the Public Accounts Committee to investigate the scandal of late payment by government departments. Small firms are hit hardest by late payment, with some going to the wall and others being unable to invest and grow because of cashflow problems.

Small businesses are the backbone of the British economy and the Government should be supporting them, not sanctioning locking them in the teeth.

Yours sincerely,  
BARBARA ROCHE  
(Shadow Small Business Minister),  
House of Commons,  
February 5.

From Mr A. L. Lunt

Sir, Mr Michael Heseltine's defence of the practice of delaying payments to suppliers will be taken as justification by those who pursue this policy, and will be abhorred by all who have a policy of on-time payment and expect the same in return.

Late payment is little short of stealing: by forcing a weaker company to borrow and pay interest, or to forego interest, it is certainly dishonest. Mr Heseltine's statement does no credit to him or to the party he and I support.

To restore its reputation the Government should reject his position unequivocally. Legislation for companies to have the right to receive interest when payments are delayed without justifiable cause is now overdue.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY L. LUNT,  
40 Stile Hall Gardens, WA,  
February 4.

## Living languages

From Emeritus Professor Harold Carter

Sir, Mr Norman Berdichevsky (letter, January 27) refers to a figure of £20,000 speaking, reading or writing Welsh, derived from the Census and included in the book *A Geography of the Welsh Language 1961-1991* by Professor J. A. Aitchison and myself. He should have referred to "speaking, reading or writing Welsh in Wales".

In spite of consistent requests the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys refuses to ask the question as to ability in Welsh in the rest of the United Kingdom. There is no way, therefore, of knowing the total number of Welsh speakers.

The crudest estimate, by taking the numbers in the rest of the UK born in Wales and assuming that the proportion of Welsh speakers in Wales can be applied to it, would suggest that there are something like an additional 100,000 on top of those actually recorded in the Census.

The census on Welsh, Gaelic and Irish should be asked in a standard format throughout the UK so that a proper enumeration of these languages is obtained.

Yours faithfully,  
HAROLD CARTER,  
Tyle Bach, Maes Y Garn,  
Bow Street, Aberystwyth, Dyfed,  
January 29.

## Millennium events

From Dr Derek Nuttall

Sir, In considering suitable ways of celebrating the millennium (Simon Jenkins, January 27) would it not be appropriate to recognise in some permanent form the contribution made to civilisation during the last thousand years through the book and the printed word?

By the start of the 21st century, it is highly probable that new means of communication will have virtually superseded books, magazines and newspapers.

How about a "Museum of the Book" where the skills of calligraphers, illuminators, and bookbinders, along with the many ingenious machines and technical processes developed for letterpress, lithographic and intaglio printing, could be preserved for those who will follow us in the third millennium?

Yours sincerely,  
D. NUTTALL,  
Langdale,  
Pulford Lane,  
Doddleston, Chester, Cheshire,  
January 29.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Fair shares for all in the broadcasting of major sports

From the Chief Executive of the Rugby Football League and others

Sir, Nobody should be surprised by the current frenzy surrounding the public debate about broadcasting and its future relationship with sport ("Right to view strikes back as pay to view", Sport, February 5).

The fact that an overwhelming majority of people care passionately about sport and their access to it, whether as participants or spectators, is a considerable comfort to all sports governing bodies.

In the past five years the cosy terrestrial duopoly has been broken and a true market established for sporting rights. The financial benefits flowing from this have enabled us to provide better stadia and better training facilities, more help for the stars of tomorrow, and, crucially, a better prospect of higher standards of achievement on the field.

There has also been a boom in the exposure of sport through the media — not just for the traditional sports but also for those such as ice hockey or basketball which have had coverage unthinkable in the days of the carnel.

So who really has been the loser? Certainly not Sky, which has brought dedicated sports channels to Britain for the first time and filled them overwhelmingly with quality sports action, much of it previously unavailable to the domestic audience.

As for the terrestrial channels, why the shrieks of anguish when, within the past year, long-term contracts have been signed with the BBC or ITV for FA Cup and England football coverage, Formula One motor racing,

and Wimbledon lawn tennis — not to mention the Olympic Games?

It is in nobody's interest that sport should be available merely to two men and a dog, at whatever price to the broadcasters. Let the politicians debate the issue by all means. But let them also be certain that they really know better than sport itself what is best for the future.

Yours faithfully,  
MAURICE LINDSAY  
(Chairman, Major Sports Rights Division, CCBP Chief Executive, Rugby Football League),  
MICHAEL BONALLACK  
(Secretary, Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews),  
TONY HALLETT  
(Secretary, Rugby Football Union),  
GRAHAM KELLY  
(Chief Executive, The Football Association),  
IAN PEACOCK  
(Executive Director, Lawn Tennis Association),  
ALAN SMITH  
(Chief Executive, Test & Country Cricket Board),  
The Central Council of Physical Recreation,  
Francis House, Francis Street, SW1,  
February 5.

From Mr Steven Barnett

Sir, The House of Lords has the opportunity tomorrow to vote on a piece of legislation which will, in my view, instantly endear it to the great majority of voters. A proposed amendment to the Broadcasting Bill reinstates the principle of "listed" sporting events which I believe, as part of our national heritage, should be freely available to

all on terrestrial television.

Such an amendment will instantly reassure the 80 per cent of households who do not have satellite or cable television that they will continue to get live coverage of the country's major sporting events for the cost of a licence fee. The argument that such a provision will prevent sporting bodies from realising the full market potential for their sports no longer holds water; the fierce competition between the BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and from next year Channel 5, will ensure that a proper market for sports rights is preserved.

It is important that their Lordships are not distracted by the Government's "consultation" paper on TV sport (report, February 3). Virginia Bottomley's stated intention to "focus the debate" is a disingenuous ploy — heavily dependent on figures and arguments from BSkyB — to deflect what appears to be a likely government defeat.

There is no doubt about the weight of popular opinion, and public fears have been fuelled by The News Corporation's recent bid for the Olympic Games. If the House of Lords has the courage to follow its instincts on this issue, it will earn the thanks of a very grateful viewing public.

Yours faithfully,  
STEVEN BARNETT  
(Author, *Games and Sex: the changing face of sport on television*),  
University of Westminster,  
School of Communication,  
Watford Road,  
Northwick Park, Harrow, Middlesex,  
February 4.

From Dr T. D. Andrews

Sir, What is the annual cost of replacement batteries for Dr Roaf's three-seater Kewet El-Jet electric car? Such batteries do not last forever.

Granted there is satisfaction in knowing that the power used by Dr Roaf for his house and car is not the product of any polluting process (excluding that caused during the manufacture of the solar panels and the car batteries); but it is most certainly not free.

Yours faithfully,  
T. D. ANDREWS,  
Clapper Farm House,  
East Bergholt,  
Colchester, Essex,  
February 2.

From Mr M. A. Challoner

Sir, I admire Dr Roaf's science and enthusiasm in having constructed 26 Blandford Avenue. Unfortunately I cannot afford to do the same.

However, I take some comfort from the fact that, by his spending of an ex-

ing at the start of 1996" (*Hansard*, Vol 270, No 41, cols 1141-2).

May I inject a note of caution? First, weapons procurement is best achieved by commercially-driven industrial arrangements, not by the superimposition of bureaucratic European agencies.

Second, any policy which impaired the Armed Forces' ability to buy the most cost-effective equipment from any appropriate source must reduce their operational effectiveness. Collaboration with American manufacturers can be just as fruitful as that with European companies.

Finally the European Union has an ambition to arrogate to itself a defence role. The means envisaged are through EU control of arms development, production and procurement. However, defence rightly remains the prerogative of sovereign states whose defence budgets are voted by national parliaments. Likewise, export licensing of armaments should remain the responsibility of the British Government answerable to the British Parliament.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN WILKINSON,  
House of Commons,  
February 2.

From Mr M. R. Adams

Sir, May I suggest a millennium scholarship trust to last into the conceivable future. This would avoid wasteful expenditure on grotesque buildings, controversial celebrations or sculptural and artistic abominations.

Each university in the United Kingdom and Ireland should devise a number of studies in important and imaginative areas. The awards should be for UK and Ireland nationals only and the studies should take place at the university which makes the award.

Since Christ is the cause of the millennium but not of conflict between Christian denominations, no studies should upset Christian beliefs. Religion should not be a subject for any of the studies nor should the media or sport, and medicine should account for no more than a small element.

The trust should be set up immediately with its members being chosen

out, the design has to rely on more than one energy source to top up any shortfall in the main supply — in Dr Roaf's case, solar topped up with a condensing boiler burning fossil fuel. I have also looked at solar as a main source, but topped up with a small wind-powered generator to counter the loss of efficiency of solar energy in winter, when loads are invariably increased.

Our European neighbours buy surplus energy from domestic renewable sources at the price they charge rather than at a fraction of their cheapest rate, as is the case in the UK. The regional electricity companies may wish to take note in view of last week's threat of a national electricity shortfall.

Yours faithfully,  
P. F. DE CUYPERS,  
2a Shireley, Lewes Road,  
Ditchling, East Sussex,  
February 5.

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The trust should be set up immediately with its members being chosen

in such a way that it will be guaranteed from its conception to be an organisation of great importance and of excellence.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL ADAMS,  
The Willows,  
Dulcote, Wells, Somerset,  
February 2.

From Mr Edward Armitage

Sir, Instead of a national monument or enterprise, or even in addition to a national effort to mark the millennium, might I suggest that each county be encouraged to embark on a project that would display that county's features and character.

One can already envisage a most exhilarating and educational holiday tour of all the county exhibits — a grand tour of Britain, in fact, rivaling in esteem the previous exhibitions of 50 and 100 years ago and, one would hope, of a more permanent nature.

Yours sincerely,  
EDWARD ARMITAGE,  
11 Cambridge Road,  
Ely, Cambridge,  
January 31.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Yours faithfully,  
ANNE TAYLER,  
8 North Street,  
Nazeing, nr Waltham Abbey, Essex,  
February 1.







# RUTH BERGHAUS

## PERSONAL COLUMN

[illegible]







The players' weekly and overall scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

10101	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	-1	+2
10102	B Milne	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	-1
10201	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	0	+8
10203	A Coton	Manchester United	2.50	0	0
10301	M Croxall	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-2	+5
10302	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
10303	A Fitts	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	0
10401	D James	Liverpool	3.50	+10	+31
10402	A Warner	Liverpool	0.25	0	-0
10501	J Lofie	Leeds United	3.00	0	-11
10502	M Beesley	Leeds United	0.75	-8	-0
10601	P Smicak	Newcastle United	3.00	+5	+10
10602	M Hooper	Newcastle United	1.00	0	0
10603	S Hisslop	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+4
10701	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+5	+5
10702	E Thorstvedt	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0
10801	A Roberts	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-7
10802	S Dykstra	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	0
10803	J Sommer	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	-6	-31
10901	H Segers	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-7
10902	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	0.75	-7	-5
10903	P Head	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-38
11001	B Grobbelaar	Southampton	1.50	0	0
11002	D Beasant	Southampton	0.75	-14	-0
11101	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	+9
11102	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	1.00	+3	+4
11201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	-1	+13
11202	V Berriman	Arsenal	0.50	0	0
11301	K Prassman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-8	-35
11302	C Woods	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-0	-6
11401	L Mido	West Ham United	2.50	+2	-12
11402	L Sealey	West Ham United	0.50	0	0
11501	N Southall	Everton	2.50	-3	-4
11502	J Kewell	Everton	0.75	0	0
11601	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-8	-27
11602	J Gould	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
11603	J Filan	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
11701	A Dibble	Manchester City	2.50	0	0
11702	E Inman	Manchester City	2.50	+4	-5
11801	M Bown	Aston Villa	2.50	+2	+35
11802	N Spink	Aston Villa	1.00	0	-1
11901	A Miller	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	-3
11902	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	0.75	-9	-14
12001	K Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-5	-82
12002	A Davison	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0



Morgan seeks value for money in the selection of his side and sees £10 million for Alan Shearer as prohibitive

# Morgan's value verdict

FROM the start I decided to ignore the expensive players and go for the people I knew and had played against and who were a bit cheaper. Looking at it now I think I have got some real bargains in my team.

When you have only £35 million to spend it is easy to go over the limit. Every player picked seems you have to see what is left in the kitty and work out how you are going to make up the rest of the team with what is left. Some of the prices are huge - Shearer costs £10 million - but I do not think that it is the expensive players who are necessarily going to do a good job for you week in, week out.

All my midfield men are steady players. They may not be piling up loads of points every time they play, but they have been getting enough to get me to top place in the league. I picked them to do a job and so far they have been doing that for me.

My star players, if you like, are Jamie Redknapp and Teddy Sheringham. You see Redknapp is a class player and he is still young, so he has a great future. Sheringham, top, has real class and is always going to get goals.

At first, I wanted to have Andy Cole in my side. Before the season started I was thinking about him because of his reputation as a goalscorer at Newcastle United. But I thought I would save a little

money and go for Sheringham instead and now I would never change my mind.

At Newcastle, Cole had the wings whipping in balls to him all the time and it seemed easy for him. You only have to look at the number of goals Lee Ferdinand has scored since he has been at Newcastle to see what a difference that sort of service makes. At Old Trafford it is a bit different, but I think Cole is settling in there and at least he is sticking at it. I think he will have a good season next year.

Strikers do not come cheap, but he was only £2.5 million and yet he always pops up and scores goals. He is in double figures most seasons so he was another easy choice for Dred Select.

The team name comes from my nickname. When I was at Plymouth I used to have my hair pinned on top and shaved at the sides. It looked a bit like dreadlocks. So when the lads saw me they called me Dred straight away and that is what I have answered to for years.

I have been out all season with an Achilles injury and I am only just back in training now.

If the money did not matter, I would definitely have Ferdinand in my side, but he is not cheap. Another player I did not pick because he was so expensive was Steve McManaman. I think he and Ryan Giggs are the two hardest players to play against. They are tricky players, men who can change a game for their teams and can be a direct threat on goal or set things up for other people. You are never quite sure what they are going to do next.

The midfield men I did go for were Roy Keane and David Batty. I have known Batty for years since we played England schoolboys and under-19s together. He is always steady and consistent and when I saw how cheap he was, he was straight in the side.

Mark Bright was another bargain. Strikers do not come cheap, but he was only £2.5 million and yet he always pops up and scores goals. He is in double figures most seasons so he was another easy choice for Dred Select.

The team name comes from my nickname. When I was at Plymouth I used to have my hair pinned on top and shaved at the sides. It looked a bit like dreadlocks. So when the lads saw me they called me Dred straight away and that is what I have answered to for years.

I have been out all season with an Achilles injury and I am only just back in training now.

Goalkeeper:	D James	(Liverpool)	£2.5
	S Clarke	(Chelsea)	£1.5
	D South	(Aston Villa)	£2.5
Centre back:	C Pinner	(Leeds)	£3.0
	D Unsworth	(Everton)	£2.5
	A Ince	(QPR)	£1.5
Midfielders:	J Redknapp	(Liverpool)	£2.5
	R Keane	(Man Utd)	£2.5
	D Batty	(Blackburn)	£2.5
	M Bright	(Sheff Wed)	£2.5
	S Sheringham	(Tottenham)	£3.0
Striker:	R Adams	(Coventry)	£1.5
Manager:			

Code	Name	Team	Val	Wk	Ch
41405	I Bishop	West Ham United	1.50	+3	+32
41406	D Gordon	West Ham United	1.00	0	0
41409	R Slater	West Ham United	1.00	+4	+20
41410	S Lazarides	West Ham United	1.00	0	+2
41411	M Hughes	West Ham United	2.00	+3	+24
41412	D Williamson	West Ham United	1.00	+2	+12
41501	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	5.00	+1	+14
41502	J Ebdell	Everton	1.50	0	+25
41503	A Linney	Everton	2.50	0	+24
41504	B Horne	Everton	1.50	+3	+19
41505	V Samways	Everton	1.50	0	+5
41508	J Parkinson	Everton	1.00	+1	+29
41509	A Grant	Everton	0.50	0	+2
41509	A Kanchelskii	Everton	6.00	+1	+41
41601	P Cook	Coventry City	2.00	0	+2
41602	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	+2	+19
41603	G Strachan	Coventry City	1.50	0	+2
41607	P Taffar	Coventry City	1.50	+2	+29
41608	M Innes	Coventry City	3.00	0	+9
41609	C Bellas	Coventry City	1.00	0	0
41610	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	+2	+33
41701	G Pilkroft	Manchester City	2.50	+2	+18
41702	P Beagrie	Manchester City	3.00	0	+3
41703	S Lomas	Manchester City	1.50	+3	+30
41704	S Brightwell	Manchester City	1.50	0	+15
41708	N Summerville	Manchester City	1.50	+3	+32
41707	G Klichadze	Manchester City	1.50	+2	+38
41708	N Clough	Manchester City	1.50	+5	+7
41801	A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.00	+3	+25
41802	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.00	+2	+29
41803	G Southgate	Aston Villa	2.00	+3	+35
41805	F Carr	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
41806	M Draper	Aston Villa	2.50	+3	+41
41901	C Hignett	Middlesbrough	1.00	+1	+26
41902	A Moore	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	0
41903	J Moreno	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+2
41904	B Munn	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+14
41905	J Pollock	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+24
41905	B Robinson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+2
41907	Juninho	Middlesbrough	5.00	0	+16
42002	D Lee	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+7
42003	A Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+13
42004	R Snodgrass	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	+1	+14
42007	W Burnard	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0
42008	S Sellers	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	+1	+16
42009	S Curcio	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	+1	+14

Code	Name	Team	Val	Wk	Ch
50101	A Shearer	Blackburn Rovers	10.00	+6	+74
50102	C Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	7.00	0	+7
50103	M Hurrell	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+21
50104	K Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+1	+8
50105	N Goodwin	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	0
50201	E Cantona	Manchester United	7.50	+4	+37
50202	A Cole	Manchester United	7.00	+3	+40
50203	B McClair	Manchester United	3.00	0	+16
50204	P Scholes	Manchester United	2.50	0	+30
50201	R Roy	Nottingham Forest	6.00	+3	+27
50302	C Campbell	Nottingham Forest	2.50	+2	+32
50303	J Lee	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	+25
50305	A Silvestro	Nottingham Forest	3.50	+2	+3
50401	R Fowler	Liverpool	8.00	+4	+67
50402	S Coffey	Liverpool	7.50	+4	+38
50403	I Rush	Liverpool	3.00	0	+19
50501	A Yeboah	Leeds United	7.50	0	+43
50502	B Deane	Leeds United	2.50	+1	+23
50503	P Mings	Leeds United	1.50	0	+2
50506	T Broth	Leeds United	1.50	+1	+16
50601	L Ferdinand	Newcastle United	8.00	+3	+84
50602	P Bardsley	Newcastle United	5.00	+1	+33
50603	P Kilsen	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+7
50604	M Allen	Newcastle United	0.50	0	0
50605	D Huckerby	Newcastle United	0.50	0	0
50701	E Sheringham	Tottenham Hotspur	6.00	+1	+60
50702	C Armstrong	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00	+1	+43
50704	R Rose	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+28
50801	K Gallen	Queens Park Rangers	4.50	0	+15
50802	S Allen	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	+1	+6
50803	D Diche	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	+1	+6
50805	N Hareley	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	+2	+10
50901	D Holdsworth	Wimbledon	4.00	+1	+31
50902	J Goodman	Wimbledon	1.50	0	+14
50905	M Harford	Wimbledon	1.00	0	+10
50904	G Blissett	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
50905	A Clarke	Wimbledon	0.75	+1	+8
50906	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	2.50	0	+22
50907	J Ewell	Wimbledon	1.50	+2	+2
51001	M Le Tissier	Southampton	8.00	+1	+20
51002	N Shipperley	Southampton	2.50	+4	+38
51003	G Watson	Southampton	2.00	+1	+48
51004	C Maskell	Southampton	0.75	0	0
51101	M Hughes	Chelsea	4.00	0	+22
51102	H Stein	Chelsea	2.50	0	+8
51103	S Spencer	Chelsea	2.50	+3	+27
51104	P Furlong	Chelsea	2.50	+5	+14
51201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.50	0	+39
51202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	7.50	+3	+33
51203	J Hartson	Arsenal	4.00	0	+9
51204	C Kewonys	Arsenal	1.50	0	0
51205	P Dickov	Arsenal	0.75	0	+4
51301	D Hirst	Sheffield Wednesday	4.00	0	+37
51302	M Bright	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+27
51303	G Whittingham	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+20
51304	O Donaldson	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	+3
51305	M Dwyer	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	+1	+27
51306	D Kovacevic	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	+1	+4
51401	T Cottas	West Ham United	4.50	+3	+34
51403	M Rogers	West Ham United	2.00	0	-3
51404	I Dowie	West Ham United	0.75	+4	+27
51501	D Ferguson	Everton	6.00	+1	+14
51502	D Anokachi	Everton	3.00	0	+22
51503	P Alder	Everton	2.00	0	+28
51504	G Stuart	Everton	2.00	+3	+40
51601	P Ndlovu	Coventry City	4.00	0	+44
51605	N Lamprey	Coventry City	1.00	0	+3
51606	N Whelan	Coventry City	1.50	+6	+20
51701	U Rosler	Manchester City	5.50	+3	+33
51702	N Quinn	Manchester City	4.00	+1	+24
51705	G Greeney	Manchester City	2.50	0	+11
51706	R Ekelund	Manchester City	2.50	+1	+1
51801	S Milosavic	Aston Villa	4.00	+2	+45
51803	D York	Aston Villa	3.00	+4	+45
51804	T Johnson	Aston Villa	2.50	+1	+23
51901	J Florio	Middlesbrough	5.00	+1	+25
51902	J Hendrie	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+8
51903	P Wilkinson	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+2
51904	N Bamby	Middlesbrough	4.00	+1	+33
52001	J McGinley	Bolton Wanderers	3.00	0	+30
52003	M Pastelainen	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	+7
52004	F De Freitas	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	+18
52005	N Blake	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-1	+1

20101	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+22
20102	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	0	+3
20103	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+32
20201	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.50	-1	+20
20202	P Parker	Manchester United	2.50	0	+1
20203	G Neville	Manchester United	2.50	-1	+8
20204	P Neville	Manchester United	0.75	-1	+12
20301	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.50	0	+28
20302	D Lytle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0	+18
20303	A Huxland	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	-12
20401	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	+7	+34
20402	S Djornabye	Liverpool	3.00	0	+4
20403	S Harkness	Liverpool	0.75	0	+26
20501	T Dorogi	Leeds United	3.50	-3	+8
20502	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	-1	+10
20503	N Worthington	Leeds United	1.50	-2	-4
20601	J Berrford	Newcastle United	3.00	+4	+17
20602	M Hottiger	Newcastle United	3.00	0	0
20603	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	+4	+28
20701	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+4	+13
20702	J Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	-3	+8
20703	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	+4	+29
20704	D Karslake	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0
20705	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+4	+13
20801	D Bardsley	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	0	-7
20802	R Brown	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-8
20803	N Zello	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	0	-8
20901	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.50	-3	-4
20902	G Elkins	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-8
20903	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	1.50	-4	-15
20904	R Joseph	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
21001	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	-1	+14
21002	F Benall	Southampton	1.00	0	+4
21003	S Charlton	Southampton	1.00	-1	+19
21101	S Clarke	Chelsea	1.50	+4	+12
21102	S Minto	Chelsea	1.50	0	+3
21104	A Myers	Chelsea	0.50	0	+15
21105	T Phelan	Chelsea	1.50	+4	+7
21106	D Patrascu	Chelsea	2.50	+4	+21
21201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	0	+30
21202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	0	+27
21203	S Morrow	Arsenal	1.50	0	0
21301	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-3	-9
21303	P Stafford	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-1	-8
21304	D Stannett	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-1
21401	J Dicks	West Ham United	3.50	+3	+5
21402	T Brackler	West Ham United	3.00	0	+12
21403	K Brown	West Ham United	0.75	+3	+3
21404	K Rowland	West Ham United	0.75	0	+9
21501	G Abbott	Everton	2.50	0	+10
21502	E Barnett	Everton	2.50	0	+4
21503	M Jackson	Everton	1.50	-1	+9
21504	P Holmes	Everton	0.50	0	-2
21601	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
21602	A Pickering	Coventry City	1.00	-3	-6
21603	S Morgan	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
21604	M Hall	Coventry City	0.75	-3	-22
21702	R Edgill	Manchester City	1.50	0	-1
21704	J Foster	Manchester City	0.75	0	-1
21801	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	+3	+4
21802	S Staunton	Aston Villa	4.50	+4	+7
21803	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50	+5	+6
21804	P King	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
21805	B Small	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
21901	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.75	-4	-7
21902	N Cox	Middlesbrough	1.00	-4	-17
21903	C Morris	Middlesbrough	0.75	-5	-18
21904	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	-8
22001	S Ferguson	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-2	-12
22002	S Green	Bolton Wanderers	0.25	-1	-8
22003	J Phillips	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	-2	-16
22004	A Todd	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	-6
22005	S McAnaspie	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	+1



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## ARTS 34-36

The actress set to make Madonna out of Molière



## LAW 37,39

How the courts should handle injury claims



## SPORT 44-48

Cricket World Cup undermined by fears for security

TELEVISION AND RADIO  
Pages 46,47

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 6 1996

Fears for overall economic growth after housing starts fall 20%

## More gloom in store for builders

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE number of houses that started construction in the final three months of 1995 slumped 20 per cent from a year earlier, presaging more misery for the industry and suggesting that, overall, the economy will fail to pick up much steam.

In 1995 as a whole, housing starts, including those built by the private sector and housing associations, totalled 169,700, a drop of 15 per cent compared with 1994. Private housing starts in the final quarter totalled 30,200, the lowest figure since the final three months of 1992. Indeed, there have only been two lower quarterly totals in the last decade. In December, private starts totalled 10,200, nearly 21 per cent down on December 1994.

Separate figures yesterday showed a drop in M0 narrow money supply in January, giving the lowest annual growth rate since October. Although the once close relationship between M0 and retail sales has broken down in recent years, the City still took the figures as a sign that the high street had stagnated, new year after a relatively healthy Christmas season.

Neither figures were deemed weak enough to weigh in favour of yet another cut in interest rates at tomorrow's monthly monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England. Having cut base rates by a quarter point in both December and January, the Chancellor is unlikely to push for another easing and Mr George exceedingly unlikely to advise one.

Howard Davies, Deputy Governor of the Bank, said at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, yesterday that the Chancellor's forecast of 3 per cent growth this year, regarded as optimistic by many independent forecasters, was "well within the realms of possibility". His comment suggests that the Bank continues to believe that the recent weakness in economic activity is a pause in growth and will not lead to a more serious slowdown and that therefore there are few grounds for cutting rates on this score.

### Shake-out hits London prices

A GLOBAL shake-out in equity, bond and futures markets yesterday saw leading shares in London fall heavily. The FT-SE 100 index ended 34.7 points lower at 3,746.5, with 433.5 million shares traded. Most international equity indices lost between 1 per cent and 2 per cent of their value. A sharp correction in US equities and European bonds left UK equities languishing with losses of 1.5 per cent.

Market report, page 28

tion of M0 is not clear, housing starts have proved to be a good indicator of future economic performance.

Michael Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Brothers, noted that an abrupt plunge in housing starts in 1989-90 was one of the first clues to the severity of the subsequent recession, and the continued refusal of starts to pick up in 1991 and early 1992 correctly signalled that the overall economy would remain sluggish. Mr Saunders said that housing starts have weakened steadily over the last year. He added that this implied that the broader economy was likely to grow only slowly.

M0 money supply fell by 0.2 per cent in January, the first month-on-month drop for a year. This took the annual rate of growth to 5.3 per cent from 5.7 per cent in December, lower than the City had expected. Part of the reason for the fall in M0 in January was a sharp decline in bankers' operational deposits, which are extremely volatile. However, stripping these out and looking at growth in notes and coins in circulation, the annual rate of growth still slipped to 5.7 per cent from 5.8 per cent.

The City will now be waiting for the Confederation of British Industry's latest distributive trades survey published on Friday to see whether the drop in M0 will be reflected in weak retail sales.

Consumers shifting, page 29

### BUILDING UP TO A SLUMP HOUSE CONSTRUCTION STARTS IN BRITAIN

Thousand per month



## Cost-cutting worries dampen BA shares despite record profits

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

DOUBTS about the ability of British Airways to go on reducing costs hit the company's shares despite record profits of £534 million in the nine months to December 31. The shares ended at 502p, down 19p.

Passenger traffic and revenues continued their climb during the third quarter. But what worried the City was the 9.2 per cent surge in group operating expenditure in the quarter, accompanied by a 5.9 per cent rise in unit costs to a level uncomfortably above the projected rate.

BA said the increase reflected investments in its first class and club world services, which are to offer passengers beds and cots on long-haul flights. A third of the cost increase was blamed on exchange rate movements.

But the rise provoked concern that BA might be coming to the end of its ability to cut £150 million from its operating costs every year, although Robert Ayling, the chief executive,

is leading a crackdown on costs. Derek Stevens, BA's finance chief, said that while the task remained tough, the savings represented only 5 per cent of BA's revenues. Cost reduction programmes were being implemented through

engineering, cargo, computers and improved financial management.

Like rival carriers, BA is benefiting from a strong recovery in air travel. Sir Colin Marshall, the chairman, said the "industry environment

remains favourable, with demand running ahead of capacity increases." Bookings had recovered from a January fall-off and a record profit for the year is anticipated.

The number of passengers carried by BA during the first nine months reached 24.8 million, up 5 per cent on the same months of 1994. Because passengers are tending to fly further, revenues per passenger were up 9.6 per cent on the same nine months of 1994, while BA flew with 74.8 per cent of its seats full, compared with 74 per cent a year ago.

The third-quarter figures were down a touch, partly reflecting the disposal of BA's Caledonian charter operation. Even so, BA achieved new third-quarter operating records. Sir Colin expects to derive increasing benefits from its links with USAir, Deutsche BA and TAT European Airlines, its French operation.



Robert Ayling, chief executive, is cracking down on costs

Tempos, page 28

## Bombardier opens talks on Fokker

BOMBARDIER of Canada has opened talks with administrators of Fokker, the collapsed Dutch regional aircraft builder (Ross Tieman writes).

The Canadian group, which owns De Havilland, Canadair, Learjet and Short Brothers in Belfast, confirmed discussions after repeatedly insisting it was not interested. The jobs of 1,500 workers at Short Brothers depend upon production of wings and components for the 80-seat and 110-seat jets built by Fokker.

Ben van Schaik, the Fokker chairman, told a press conference at the Singapore airshow that Bombardier was among five companies in talks with Fokker and its administrators.

The others were British Aerospace and Aerospaciale of France, which are partners in regional plane-maker Aero International Regional (AIR); Samsung Aerospace Industries of Korea and Taiwan Aerospace Corporation.

## BT ordered to cut charges to rivals

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

DON CRUICKSHANK, the Ofcom chief, is ordering British Telecom to cut £50 million a year from charges for delivery of long-distance calls carried by rival phone companies.

In a landmark determination, the director-general of telecommunications said that Britain's dominant phone company must cut so-called "access deficit" charges — levied to compensate for losses on local exchange lines — by 8 per cent.

At the same time, he ordered BT to cut inland conveyance charges by around 10 per cent. BT will lose around a fifth of its £250 million revenue from other phone companies — chiefly Mercury Communications — and the impact will become even more significant as rivals eat into BT's share of the UK telephone market.

BT indicated that it will accept the Ofcom determination but Peter Howell-Davies, chief executive of Mercury, was "appalled" that rivals would be obliged to share part of the

cost of BT's redundancy programme.

The ruling is the first arising from the newly imposed obligation on BT to separate the accounts of its network from the provision of phone services. It confirms Mr Cruickshank's determination to prevent BT from loading inappropriate costs onto businesses where other companies are obliged to share them.

Industry sources suggested the impact on BT would be up to £50 million a year, although analysts believe the company may seek to exaggerate the impact in business as part of the drive to maximise revenues from rival operators. Nonetheless, the cut in charges will make it easier for rivals to attack BT's core business and domestic telephone markets.

Cellnet, the mobile phone company owned 60 per cent by BT and 40 per cent by Securicor, is to cut charges by 30 per cent and switch to per-second billing.

Retail king, page 29

## Sears sells Saxone and Curless to Hinchliffe

By SARAH BAGNALL

SEARS, the retail group, yesterday announced the sale of Curless and Saxone, the high street shoe chains, in a move that will result in 290 job losses over the next year.

A total of 134 Saxone and Curless stores were sold to Facia, Britain's second largest privately owned retail group, at the weekend, marking the group's ninth acquisition in 18 months. Facia acquired the stores and £10 million of assets from Sears for an undisclosed sum. City watchers estimate that Facia paid up to £5 million for the brand names.

Stephen Hinchliffe, the Sheffield businessman and sole holder of Facia ordinary shares, said: "This acquisition gives us critical mass. I am delighted to have completed the acquisition of Saxone and Curless both of which are very strong high street brands and dovetail logically with our existing retail outlets." The deal is the second between Facia and Sears. Last August, Facia acquired 245 shops in the Freeman Hardy & Willis, Trueform and Manfield chains from Sears.

Excluded from yesterday's deal are about 40 Curless and Saxone stores that Sears is retaining and converting into its new formats, which include Shoe Express and Shoe City. The 111-strong Saxone chain and the 124 Curless stores were put up for sale by Sears early last month as part of the retail group's strategy of reducing the number of its shoe formats. At the time of announcing the planned disposal of Saxone and Curless, Sears said that if it failed to find a buyer within a couple of months the chains would be closed, resulting in the loss of 1,700 jobs.

Yesterday Sears said 90 jobs would go from British Shoe's head office in Leicester while a further 200 would be lost from the logistics division.

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES  
FT-SE 100 3746.5 (-34.7)  
Yield 3.82%  
FT-SE All share 1828.74 (-13.81)  
Nikkei 20653.38 (-250.65)  
New York Dow Jones 8364.12 (-19.87)  
S&P Composite 834.70 (-1.14)

FEDERAL RESERVE  
Federal Funds 5.75% (5.75%)  
Long Bond 105.04 (105.04)  
Yield 6.18% (6.17%)

LIBOR MONEY  
3-mth Interbank 5.75% (5.75%)  
Little long gilts 108% (108%)

STERLING  
New York \$ 1.5348\* (1.5245)  
London £ 1.5351 (1.5198)  
DM 2.2506 (2.2575)  
FF 7.7420 (7.7475)  
¥ 1.6343 (1.6528)  
¥ 161.19 (161.95)  
£ index 83.7 (83.7)

US DOLLAR  
New York \$ 1.4670\* (1.4620)  
London £ 0.6450\* (0.6380)  
DM 1.1659 (1.2145)  
¥ 105.04 (105.45)  
£ index 95.8 (96.4)

Tokyo close Yen 108.2

NORTH SEA OIL  
Brent 15-day (Apr) \$18.10 (\$18.50)

GOLD  
London close \$414.75 (\$415.15)  
\* denotes midday trading price

## Scottish Widows to shed 700 jobs

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

UP TO 700 jobs are to go at Scottish Widows, the UK's fifth-largest life office, in a nationwide cost-cutting exercise that will reduce expenses by 30 per cent.

Most of the redundancies will be at the head office in Edinburgh, where operations are being streamlined and between 500 and 600 jobs will be lost by next January.

A further 100 people will go from the six regional business centres, in Birmingham, Bristol, Croydon, Leeds, London and Manchester.

David Graham, head of marketing, said that all applications for life and pensions policies would be handled in Edinburgh from June 30, and compulsory redundancies would be necessary. "We will try to lose the 600 jobs in head office through retirement, voluntary redundancy and natural wastage, but I expect few members of staff in the regions will want to relocate to Edinburgh," he said.

Mr Graham said this was in line with requests from independent financial advisers that new business processing be concentrated in one centre, although the IFA sales force would not be affected.

Mike Ross, chief executive of Scottish Widows, said that the action followed "a comprehensive examination of all functions at head office". He added: "Our over-riding aim is to drive down costs, while driving up productivity and quality. The measure we are taking will yield a step change in our performance, and will build on our new business success last year in increasing our new premium income by 44 per cent."

John Osborne.

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## Exchange 'needs closer focus'

By Patricia Tehan, Banking Correspondent

IAN PLENDERLEITH, the Bank of England monetary policy director who was asked to become non-executive deputy chairman of the Stock Exchange to help it through its leadership crisis last month, has said the exchange needs to develop "a more closely-focused role".

In a speech in Cardiff last night, Mr Plenderleith gave his opinion of the exchange's future role and the debate over trading systems for the first time. He said the exchange "still has an important contribution to make to our financial system".

The exchange has been accused by critics of attempting to maintain its dominant position in London by keeping out new competitors. But he said it is operating in a world in which technology makes it possible for new trading mechanisms to spring up quickly in response to needs. The exchange's aim, he said, was "to offer competitive services for investors with capital to invest and for companies needing to raise capital. It in no way seeks any special status as of right, nor any exclusive position."

He said it would develop a more closely focused role by concentrating on providing a primary market structure for companies to raise capital and by providing a liquid and fair trading market structure for secondary trading of securities. He reinforced the exchange's position on electronic order-matching as part of its Sequences project. A committee will report to the board on its introduction in March.

Mr Plenderleith was asked to become deputy chairman after Michael Lawrence lost the confidence of the board and was dismissed as chief executive. His appointment is seen as providing reassurance to the City.



THE Rt Hon IAN LANG MP HIS EXCELLENCY MR. HE GUANGYUAN

## Pharmacia & Upjohn chooses British HQ

By Eric Roberts

UPJOHN of America and Pharmacia of Sweden, the pharmaceutical companies that completed a \$13 billion merger in November, unveiled their new British headquarters yesterday and said that the group is considering a listing on the London Stock Exchange.

The group, to be called Pharmacia & Upjohn, is, however, unlikely to create many jobs in Britain over the next few years. About 100 senior managers, including John Zabriskie, the chief executive, will be based in Windsor.

There are no immediate plans to create employment beyond the head office, such as establishing a research and development centre or an additional manufacturing site. In fact, overall employment

in Britain is likely to decline in the short term. Before the merger was completed, the two companies said they would eliminate 4,000 of their 34,500 jobs worldwide. Total British employment stands at about 600.

Company officials said they could not reveal yet how many British workers would be made redundant. An announcement on global job losses will be made next month.

P&U said it chose a site near London for its new headquarters because the city is emerging as a global pharmaceuticals centre. Mr Zabriskie said: "London was chosen because it is recognized as the world's leading financial and air transportation centre... and it was the obvious choice for a truly global

approach to managing a major pharmaceutical company."

P&U will be the fourth largest drugs group based in or near London, after Glaxo Wellcome, SmithKline Bee-



Zabriskie: Windsor base

cham and Zeneca. It will have annual turnover of about \$7 billion and an R&D budget of \$1 billion, putting it in the top ten.

P&U was created through a tax-free share swap that left the group with \$1 billion in cash and no debt. The company said its financial flexibility will allow it to expand by acquiring new products or companies.

The shares are listed on the New York and Swedish exchanges and Bob Salisbury, the chief financial officer, said the group would like to have a London listing. "We're currently looking into the listing requirements," he said.

P&U will have leading positions in cancer research and treatments for metabolic diseases, critical care, infectious diseases and female fertility.

## Lloyd's seeks bids to manage Equitas

By Sarah Baginall

LOYD'S OF LONDON is to invite bids from a group of UK and US fund managers to manage more than £10 billion of assets that could generate fees of up to £50 million a year.

The assets are due to be transferred into Equitas, a new reinsurance company being set up by Lloyd's to take over all the insurance market's old-year liabilities. The assets are currently held by Lloyd's syndicates as reserves to meet these future liabilities. However, a proportion of the assets will come from Lloyd's names in the form of a fee payable to Equitas in return for off-loading their liabilities to the reinsurance company.

Equitas, intended to invite about 10 fund managers to bid for a share of the £10 billion-plus contract. A short list is expected to be drawn up in the next couple of months with the selection of managers taking place in April or May.

A large proportion of the insurance market's future liabilities relates to asbestos and pollution claims from the US. Reflecting the currency of the underlying risk, up to 70 per cent of the assets will be in the form of US dollars.

The future of Equitas has yet to be secured and depends on the go-ahead of several parties, including names and the Department of Trade and Industry. The formation of Equitas is an integral part of a £2.8 billion recovery package that Lloyd's is in the process of forming. The recovery package aims to settle the mass of legal actions taken by names against Lloyd's agents as well as offering financial help to names struggling to meet the bills Equitas will present to them for taking over their old-year liabilities.

For the plan to succeed, Lloyd's needs its names' support. The timing of when names vote on the recovery plan may suffer a delay as Lloyd's ruling council may decide tomorrow against asking names to vote when they do not know the final details of their individual bills from Equitas or their share of funds available to settle their litigation. As a result the vote, due before the end of March, may be put off until May.

Merthyr Tydfil, the historic cradle of Britain's steel industry, has faced badly in the last 15 years, losing around 6,000 engineering jobs.

The WDA will build a purpose-designed, 225,000 sq ft factory on the edge of the town for sale to Halla.

## Korean jobs boost for South Wales blackspot

By Iola Smith

MORE THAN 300 jobs will be created in an unemployment blackspot in South Wales with an £17 million investment by one of South Korea's largest industrial groups.

The Halla Group, which employs almost 14,000 people worldwide, is to produce forklift trucks, mechanical diggers and other earth-moving equipment for the European market in Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan. Halla is one of Korea's top industrial

groups, with annual sales in excess of \$5.6 billion. Its interests include shipbuilding and aerospace, in addition to automotive equipment and construction.

Halla is the first Korean company to relocate to Wales. The decision was taken after nearly a year of negotiations with the Welsh Development Agency (WDA) and the Welsh Office, and the receipt of a special package of grants.

David Rowe-Beddo, chairman of the WDA, said: "The company informed us that it wants to source as many components as possible locally. That means that, as well as the 309 direct jobs to be created, there will be a substantial number of additional jobs created indirectly at the companies that will supply the Merthyr plant."

Merthyr Tydfil, the historic cradle of Britain's steel industry, has faced badly in the last 15 years, losing around 6,000 engineering jobs.

The WDA will build a purpose-designed, 225,000 sq ft factory on the edge of the town for sale to Halla.

## Inquiry opens into Yorkshire drought

By Christine Buckley

THE inquiry into Yorkshire's drought crisis starts today when the head of the investigation outlines his reference terms and timetable.

Professor John Uff, an expert in engineering law and arbitration, will begin the inquiry - expected to last two weeks - into why the company came close to imposing cuts in supply last year. His report should be made public by the end of April.

Yorkshire Water, whose chairman last year announced his departure, has blamed exceptionally dry weather and topographical difficulties. Critics have claimed a high leakage rate of 33 per cent.

Last year it said it would invest an extra £100 million in improving supplies, including pumping water across from the east of the region to the west. Yorkshire transported tankersloads of water from the Kielder Reservoir to stave off cuts.

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## TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate
Australia	1.88
Austria	1.88
Belgium	48.58
Canada	8.25
Cyprus	0.70
Denmark	8.57
Finland	8.57
France	7.56
Germany	8.57
Greece	37.02
Hong Kong	11.48
Ireland	0.84
Israel	4.00
Italy	288.00
Japan	16.30
Korea	0.85
Netherlands	2.69
New Zealand	2.69
Norway	8.57
Portugal	267.80
Spain	185.00
Sweden	10.52
Switzerland	1.59
Turkey	8255.00
USA	1.90

## LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

### LEGAL NOTICES

**INC International Credit PLC**  
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□ Special dividend not the answer to demerger doubts □ Too bright a view of City research □ Bid fever among the TV stocks

## Over-egging the Hanson pudding

THE arrival in the market of rumours of a special dividend as a sweetener to the impending break-up of Hanson smacks of desperation, as well as a distinctly un-Hansonish attack of short-termism.

Last week there was no detail on how the balance sheets of Hanson's four constituent parts would measure up post-demergers, and not a word of a payment to those loyal investors who have stayed in as the shares have underperformed the market year after year. Now the company has confirmed that, yes, such a payment is being considered, although nothing has been decided as yet. This begs the obvious question why it was not limited at last week's exhaustive briefings. The ever more obvious answer is that it has something to do with the lukewarm response in the City to the demerger plans.

If this is the case, then it has not had the desired effect of sparking any great enthusiasm in those plans. Hanson shares were on the slide again yesterday, admittedly in a falling market. All it has done is raise expectations of a payout which the company, if the final decision goes the other way, will have difficulty in playing down again.

The City was always going to be lukewarm. Most analysts are timid creatures and hate change.

while the benefits of break-up are not going to become apparent for several years at least. Hanson's dismal share price performance notwithstanding, the company has sufficient clout to square up to the doubters if board and advisers generally believe in their stated strategy.

Hanson's 12p dividend last year was less than twice covered by earnings, and analysts' projections suggest no change in this state of affairs if, as expected, it is held at this level this year or next. Any doubling, as is being suggested, would have to be a one-off that could not be justified on trading grounds.

It would have the advantage of persuading those income funds who are now supposed to be considering dumping their Hanson shares to stay in for now. Their concern is that some or all of the four little demerged Hansons might not be able to hold dividends at the levels they have come to expect.

But a £640 million special payout, as being forecast, would have to come off the balance sheets of those companies, pretty well ensuring that some future

dividends have to be cut — for example, at a chemicals business that will sooner or later have to face up to another cyclical downturn.

Sensing this, the income funds might just cut and run as soon as the special dividend is paid, leaving other investors to brave any subsequent fall in the shares. This is presumably not the legacy Lord Hanson wishes to leave, and it is a long way from adding shareholder value. If the strategy was right last week, it is right now and does not need a dollop of syrup to sell it to the faint hearts. Lord Hanson should stand firm.

### Chaff and grain among analysts

THOSE capable of casting their minds back as far as the last election, if no further, will be aware of the inadequacies of modern opinion polls.

The annual stockbroker survey by Consensus Research, on behalf of the Securities Institute, confirms the pre-eminence of Warburg, in its latest, Swiss-

### PENNINGTON



owned, incarnation. Warburg's lead has even been extended, rather than being whittled away by recent traumas.

However, the survey also suggests, somewhat tongue in cheek, that corporate opinion-makers' view of City research has been rising without a break over the past decade. Last year a net "improvement" of 31 per cent was detected, as measured by the difference between those who unaccountably thought the City's work was better and those sensing a deterioration.

All this proves is the statistical tendency towards positive thinking of anyone filling in such a questionnaire — unless its subject is British Gas or British Rail. Corporate Britain is deeply sceptical about the quality of research carried out on companies, if not quite as unimpressed as the fund managers to whom such research is normally marketed.

The experience is the same for any decent-sized company required to put on results briefings for the City. Some 40 or 50 analysts will arrive, far more than the volume of business in that sector can ever support, of whom perhaps a dozen are fairly competent. Three or four may be outstanding, and to them go the six-figure salaries.

The middle-rankers can be left alone to look after themselves and not cause too much damage. The diffusers have to be nursed by expensive investment relations teams so that their profits forecasts are on the right block and do not cause mass panic when reality and the next set of figures eventually intrude.

The fund managers are more brutal. Nine tenths of broker's circulars go in the bin straight away, and few of the rest are read cover to cover. Those managers know who the three or four heavy-hitters are in each sector and restrict their attention to

them. This is why the same names reappear year after year on the annual analysts' ranking surveys — and why these are a far more reliable pieces of statistical research.

### Piranhas in the haunted fishtank

THE commercial television companies are heading for another round of frantic thrashing and floundering within their little corporate goldfish bowl. This summer should, with a little help from the Government, see at least a couple lose their much-prized independence.

The cross-holdings between Scottish TV, HTV and the Mirror Group are complex, but they are due for some simplification now Flextech has effectively put Scottish on the market. HTV is already thought to be in its own talks with Michael Green at Carlton; Mirror Group is the most obvious buyer for Scottish.

Any HTV deal needs the passage of the Broadcasting Bill later this year, which, by calculating the permitted

combinations on size of audience rather than number of franchises will allow Carlton to expand. It could also be frustrated by a rival bidder.

One of the attractions for HTV in talking to Carlton, ironically, is to avoid the attentions of Scottish, which itself has 20 per cent. Flextech, with a similar stake, now wants out, having abandoned plans of a Celtic alliance. Then, of course, Carlton could go for Scottish, so acquiring a chunk of HTV.

How reminiscent it all seems of that frantic round of bids and deals a couple of years ago that last carved up the ITV map — and there is also the question of who is stalking Pearson, a big player if one not represented on that map. But under other cross-media ownership rules, Mirror Group has a problem. It can grow no further in TV, because of its 23 per cent share of the national paper market.

David Montgomery, increasingly preferring TV, even top-draws players on Live TV. Heaven help us, to the written word, is lobbying hard for a change to the rules. The Mirror chief executive wants the limit raised from 20 to 25 per cent to allow a purchase. His only other option is to sell or close a newspaper — or, at least, to threaten such a drastic move in order to put pressure on the Heritage Department.

## Dalgety's half-year results fail to live up to City expectations

BY SARAH HAINES

DALGETY, the pet-food giant that owns Spillers and Felix, yesterday revealed a sharp fall in underlying pre-tax profits from £60.9 million to £47 million in the six months to December 31.

The results were at the lower end of City expectations, prompting several analysts to trim their full-year forecasts by about £10 million to £125 million.

Including several one-off items that resulted in a £22 million net gain, the pre-tax profit comparison improved to £69.4 million against £60.9 million last time. This was mainly owing to a £62 million profit on Dalgety's sale of its Homepride cooking sauces.

Golden Wonder snacks and instant hot soups.

However, partly offsetting this gain were £29.8 million of reorganisation costs and a £40 million provision for revaluing property.

The reorganisation costs are part of the £70 million that Dalgety is spending on integrating Quaker's European pet-food interests, which it acquired for £442 million last year, with its existing pet-food operations.



John Murray, Dalgety's finance director, and Richard Clothier, chief executive, yesterday

Richard Clothier, chief executive, disclosed yesterday that the resulting benefits of the programme would be achieved next year — a year earlier than originally forecast. However, analysts ques-

tioned whether the annual saving of £40 million would feed through in full to the bottom line.

The City was slightly disappointed by the group's decision to hold its interim

dividend at 8.5p but most analysts agreed that this was prudent given the company's current financial state.

The Quaker acquisition helped the group to lift pet-foods profits from £11.6 mil-

lion to £16.5 million on sales of £387 million, up from £160 million last time. Stripping out the benefits of the Quaker business reveals that Dalgety's original Spillers business suffered a fall in profits. However, Spillers' performance is now on the mend.

Maurice Warren, the chairman, said: "The Quaker business has fully lived up to our expectations and so have the opportunities for cost reduction. Sales of the long-established Spillers products were lower in the period immediately after the acquisition, but I am pleased to say that the sales levels are now recovering."

Agribusiness profits rose 25 per cent to £20.7 million, while food ingredients' profits slipped from £18.1 million to £15.1 million, reflecting higher raw material prices.

The group's food distribution arm saw profits slip from £7.7 million to £6 million.

The dividend is due on June 3 and is payable out of underlying earnings per share of 10.8p, down from 16.9p last time. The shares fell 2p to 413p.

Temps, page 28

### Henderson suffers profit fall

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

HENDERSON Administration, the fund manager, suffered a £10,000 fall in pre-tax profits to £14.85 million, in the nine months to December 31, in spite of an exceptional profit of £297,000 from selling its interest in The Administration Partnership.

Total funds under management fell from £11.9 billion to £11.37 billion over the nine-month period, but rose from March's £11.1 billion, reflecting positive movements in world markets.

Funds under management in investment trusts increased from £3.6 billion to £4.2 billion. Unit trusts rose from £1.27 billion in December 1994 to £1.35 billion, and Peps were up from £406 million to £510 million. The biggest fall was in institutional funds, down from £4.5 billion to £2.35 billion.

Ben Wrey, chairman, said the final-quarter outcome would depend mainly on world market levels, but Henderson's changed mix of business sources showed the potential "for future growth".

## Profits of Waste Management down by £142m

BY MARTIN BARROW

PROFITS of Waste Management International slumped to £23.13 million before tax, from £165.16 million last year, as heavy restructuring costs took their toll.

The company, the UK arm of America's WMM Technologies, charged £123 million against the restructuring, which took place largely in the final quarter. The overhaul included closing offices to cut overheads and withdrawal from markets no longer having potential for significant growth.

There was a loss per share of 0.9p, compared with earnings of 27.8p in the previous 12 months. Again there is no dividend. The shares fell 6p to 332p. When the company obtained a stock market listing in London, in 1992, they were offered at 85p.

Since then, intense competition in a contracting market, particularly for industrial waste, and the increasing burden of complying with tighter regulation, has dogged the company, which now operates in ten European countries and

has smaller operations in Asia and Latin America.

Waste Management reported favourably on operations in Britain, The Netherlands and New Zealand. Operations in Italy suffered from political and financial instability and rising labour costs. Business in France suffered from nationwide strikes late in 1995. Waste Management last year made 25 acquisitions, mostly small, to expand its recycling capacity, in Britain and Italy in particular.

The company said that it expected cash flow to rise to about £70 million in 1996, from £41 million last year. Approved capital spending for 1996 is £150 million.

Joseph M. Holsten, chief executive, said: "Our performance in 1995 was disappointing. We have, however, taken steps to position ourselves for improved results." The restructuring would let management focus resources in areas that, in the long term, would provide the greatest returns.

Temps, page 28

### Invitation to the Annual General Meeting

Thyssen Aktiengesellschaft invites shareholders to the 42nd Annual General Meeting on Friday, 22nd March 1996, at 10.00 am, in the Mercedes-Halle, König-Heinrich-Platz, Düsseldorf.

#### Agenda

1. Presentation of the adopted annual accounts of the Company and the Group, as well as of the management report on Thyssen AG and the Thyssen Group for the fiscal year 1994/95, together with the report of the Supervisory Board
2. Resolution on the appropriation of net earnings
3. Resolution on the official approval of the acts and omissions of the Executive Board
4. Resolution on the official approval of the acts and omissions of the Supervisory Board
5. Election of statutory auditors
6. Election of Supervisory Board members
7. Resolution on the creation of authorized capital I and a corresponding amendment to the Articles of Association
8. Resolution on the creation of authorized capital II and on the amendment to the Articles of Association
9. Resolution on the authorization to issue bonds with warrants, the creation of potential capital, as well as on the amendment to the Articles of Association
10. Other amendments to the Articles of Association

According to Article 13 of our company's Articles of Association, such shareholders are entitled to participate in the Annual General Meeting as, on or before 15th March 1996, have deposited, and left there until the close of the Annual General Meeting, their shares with the deposit bank, SBC Warburg, a division of Swiss Bank Corporation in Great Britain.

Düsseldorf, February 1996

The Executive Board



THYSSEN AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT

### CentreGold in bid negotiations

SHARES in CentreGold were suspended at 31p yesterday after the troubled computer games distributor said it was in advanced negotiations concerning a possible offer for the company.

CentreGold first confirmed persistent City rumours of a possible bid for the company in December, when the board declared that a number of parties were interested in buying all or part of its business, but nothing has been heard since then.

The shares were floated on the stock market in October 1993 at 125p each. In 1995 it issued two profit warnings and indicated that it would pass the final dividend.

### Takeover talk sends Scottish TV higher

BY ERIC REGULY

SHARES of Scottish Television, the ITV company in central Scotland, rose to a new high yesterday as rumours circulated that it was a takeover target (See Pennington, this page).

City analysts said the shares rose because the market now believed that Flextech and Mirror Group, which each own 20 per cent of Scottish Television, would welcome a takeover at the right price.

Roger Luard, chief executive of Flextech, would say only that "at the end of the day, there's a price for everything". Scottish Television shares rose 36p to 566p, breaking their previous high of 530p, on volume of 292,000. SBC War-

burg is to publish an investment note this week that is said to value the company at £6 a share.

The most likely buyers are Granada, Carlton and MAI, each of which will have room to expand under the ownership rules of the new Broadcasting Bill. Under the proposed legislation, Mirror Group would be prevented from buying Scottish Television.

HTV, the ITV company in the West of England and Wales, would not comment yesterday on reports that it was in merger talks with Carlton. There is speculation that Carlton will attempt to buy Scottish Television if any talks with HTV break down.

### Computer company reshapes itself

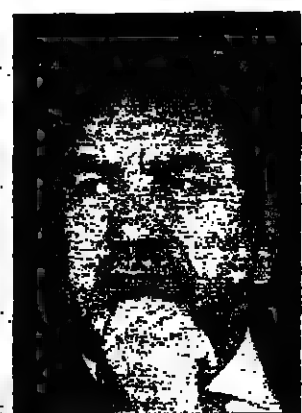
## Amstrad to shed 150 jobs

BY ALAN MURRAY

AMSTRAD, the computer company, is to cut up to 150 jobs in a reorganisation of its consumer electronics division.

Amstrad Trading, which concentrates on retail sales, will be slimmed down to improve efficiency and will work on developing new product lines. Amstrad Direct, which was launched only last year, will be relocated at Alpheton, northwest London, and will be managed as an independent subsidiary by Viglen, Amstrad's computer-making subsidiary. Amstrad Direct's factory in Shoebury will be closed by May of this year.

Amstrad's consumer electronics division has not made a profit for three years and last



Sugar aiming to move staff

complete, Viglen will continue to concentrate on the professional market while Amstrad Direct will remain focused on the consumer market. Amstrad said that it will attempt to relocate staff within the company, but it predicts a total reduction in staffing levels of about 150. There will be further job losses in the European subsidiaries.

Alan Sugar, the chairman, said: "The market trend in consumer electronics means that only lean organisations who concentrate on their core skills will flourish."

"This reorganisation puts Amstrad Trading and Amstrad Direct on an equal basis to their respective competitors."

Amstrad shares closed up 1.5p, at 187p.

## MARSH & MCLENNAN COMPANIES

Results for the year ended 31st December, 1995 (Unaudited)

	\$ million (except per share figures)	
	1995	1994*
Total Revenue	\$3,770.3	\$3,435.0
Total Expense	3,075.4	2,764.7
Operating Income	694.9	670.3
Income Before Income Taxes	649.8	631.5
Net Income	402.9	371.5
Net Income Per Share	\$5.53	\$5.05
Dividends Paid Per Share	\$2.975	\$2.80

\*Reflects the adoption, effective January 1, 1994, of SFAS No. 112, "Employers' Accounting for Postemployment Benefits."

Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. is a professional services firm with insurance and reinsurance broking, consulting and investment management businesses. More than 25,000 employees worldwide provide analysis, advice and transactional capabilities to clients in over 80 countries. Our operating companies in the UK are:

Bowring Marsh & McLennan  
C.T. Bowring & Co. (Insurance)  
Carpenter Bowring  
William M. Mercer  
Victor O. Schinnerer & Company  
The Frizzell Group  
Putnam Europe  
National Economic Research Associates  
Mercer Management Consulting







6th February 1996



# Good morning.

(And why it is one.)

It's not every day you can talk about a genuine medical breakthrough.

But maybe today, February 6th, is the exception.

This morning, two leading pharmaceutical companies – Pharmacia and Upjohn – are announcing to the world the merger of their operations.

This will mean that two pools of specialised medical talent now have the opportunity to work together for the first time ever.

Resulting in real, tangible benefits in the fight against cancer, AIDS, infectious diseases and many other medical conditions.

This merger is not simply a matter of shared resources, however. It is also about shared ideals.

Our new trademark stands as a symbol for humanity, hope and inspiration.

Values that we intend to apply to every single aspect of the way we do business.

You are surprised to hear such sentiments coming from a global pharmaceutical company?

This is not the last time we'll be surprising you.

You can be sure of that.



**Pharmacia  
& Upjohn**



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# Shares turn sharply lower

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1995 High	1995 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
266	265	48%	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
265	264	30	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
264	263	30	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
263	262	30	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
262	261	30	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
261	260	30	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
260	259	30	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
259	258	30	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
258	257	30	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
257	256	30	1.00	0.00	0	15.7

## BANKS

1995 High	1995 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
200	199	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
199	198	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
198	197	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
197	196	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
196	195	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
195	194	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
194	193	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
193	192	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
192	191	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7

## BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1995 High	1995 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
200	199	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
199	198	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
198	197	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
197	196	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
196	195	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
195	194	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
194	193	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
193	192	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
192	191	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7

## BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1995 High	1995 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
200	199	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
199	198	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
198	197	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
197	196	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
196	195	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
195	194	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
194	193	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
193	192	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
192	191	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7

## BUILDING MATERIALS

1995 High	1995 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
200	199	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
199	198	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
198	197	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
197	196	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
196	195	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
195	194	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
194	193	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
193	192	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
192	191	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7

## CHEMICALS

1995 High	1995 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
200	199	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
199	198	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
198	197	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
197	196	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
196	195	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
195	194	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
194	193	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
193	192	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
192	191	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7

## DISTRIBUTORS

1995 High	1995 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
200	199	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
199	198	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
198	197	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
197	196	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
196	195	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
195	194	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
194	193	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
193	192	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
192	191	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7

## DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1995 High	1995 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
200	199	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
199	198	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
198	197	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
197	196	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
196	195	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
195	194	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
194	193	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
193	192	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
192	191	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7

## ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1995 High	1995 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
200	199	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
199	198	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
198	197	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
197	196	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
196	195	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
195	194	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
194	193	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
193	192	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
192	191	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7

## FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1995 High	1995 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
200	199	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
199	198	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
198	197	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
197	196	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
196	195	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
195	194	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
194	193	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
193	192	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
192	191	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7

## ELECTRICITY

1995 High	1995 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
200	199	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
199	198	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
198	197	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
197	196	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
196	195	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
195	194	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
194	193	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
193	192	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
192	191	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7

## ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1995 High	1995 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
200	199	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
199	198	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
198	197	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
197	196	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
196	195	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
195	194	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
194	193	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
193	192	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
192	191	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7

## ENGINEERING

1995 High	1995 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
200	199	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
199	198	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
198	197	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
197	196	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
196	195	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
195	194	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
194	193	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
193	192	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
192	191	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7

## HOUSEHOLD GOODS

1995 High	1995 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
200	199	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
199	198	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
198	197	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
197	196	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
196	195	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
195	194	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
194	193	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
193	192	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
192	191	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7

## HEALTHCARE

1995 High	1995 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
200	199	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
199	198	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
198	197	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
197	196	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
196	195	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
195	194	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
194	193	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
193	192	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
192	191	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7

## INSURANCE

1995 High	1995 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
200	199	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
199	198	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
198	197	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
197	196	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
196	195	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
195	194	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
194	193	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
193	192	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
192	191	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1995 High	1995 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
200	199	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
199	198	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
198	197	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
197	196	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
196	195	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
195	194	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
194	193	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
193	192	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
192	191	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7

Which holiday is invested with relaxation and stimulation?

SWAN HELLONIC

0171 800 2200

199	198	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
198	197	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
197	196	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
196	195	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
195	194	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
194	193	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
193	192	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
192	191	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
191	190	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
190	189	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
189	188	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
188	187	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
187	186	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
186	185	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
185	184	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
184	183	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
183	182	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
182	181	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
181	180	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
180	179	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
179	178	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
178	177	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
177	176	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
176	175	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
175	174	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
174	173	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
173	172	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
172	171	200	1.00	0.00	0	15.7
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## THEATRE 1

Another star of Hollywood hits the British stage: Molière beckons Elizabeth McGovern



## THEATRE 2

Whole Lotta Shakin' is a whole lotta nothing, but Jerry Lee Lewis's songs still pack a punch

## THE TIMES ARTS



## THEATRE 3

Polemics come up fresh from the 18th century in a revival of Holberg's *Erasmus Montanus*



## RECITALS

Epic journey complete: the Emersons are magnificent to the last in the Beethoven quartets

Matt Wolf meets film star Elizabeth McGovern, making a British stage debut in *The Misanthrope*

## Thoroughly modern Molière

Elizabeth McGovern had barely graduated from high school in 1980 when Robert Redford cast her in a supporting role in his Oscar-winning *Ordinary People*. A year later the fresh-faced actress was an Oscar nominee for her performance in Milos Forman's *Ragtime*. Since then the cinema has been less than kind: does anyone remember *The Bedroom Window* or *Jokun Hand*?

But the stage has offered McGovern a home. For much of the 1980s she was a regular fixture on and off Broadway.

This week, the London resident — her husband is the BBC producer Simon Curtis — makes her British stage debut in *The Misanthrope*, which she laughs opposite Ken Stott in a new version of the Molière play, adapted by Martin Crimp.

London to find out what New York has long known: an erstwhile teen discovery can hold her own as a classical actress. "I had always had a passion to do theatre," says McGovern. The 34-year-old actress is talking during her lunch break backstage at the Young Vic, where she was summoned less than a week before rehearsals to replace Rachel Weisz (who, ironically, forsook the production to co-star in her first Hollywood film). "Even though I was working in movies, I was always auditioning for the stage. Either I was getting rejected, or doing awkward performances and learning by them. I feel proud of that."

"It's taken me a long time to learn how to be an actress on the stage. But I have, in the sense that not every performance I do is going to be brilliant, but I'm certainly a lot better than when I started." Indeed, McGovern spent a year at New York's Juilliard school — Kelly McCullis and Kevin Spacey were classmates — only to give up the course in order to do *Ragtime*.

She is the first to admit that her screen start was a heady one. As the showgirl Evelyn Nesbit in *Ragtime*, McGovern dominated reviews amid a cast featuring no less a legend than James Cagney, then aged 81. The film itself was nominated for eight Academy Awards, though McGovern missed the ceremony because she was in New York filming the forgettable Dudley Moore comedy, *Lovesick*.

After such beginnings, was a fall inevitable? McGovern addresses the point with characteristic lack of pretension. "I say with great amusement that I've been slowly working my way down my whole career," she smiles. "Though I don't really feel that way: I actually feel very proud of my career." Since moving to London four years ago she has done two BBC2 *Performance* films of plays produced by Curtis: *Tales from Hollywood* (1992), with Alec Guinness, and *The Changeling* (1993) with Bob Hoskins, which was also directed by Curtis. Prior to both, she appeared in 1991 in the BBC1 adaptations of Somerset Maugham's *Ashenden* spy stories.

*The Misanthrope*, updated by Crimp to contemporary London and directed by Lindsay Posner, reconceives Molière's Celimene as Jennifer, a glamorous American film star arriving in Britain to promote her newest project. "The challenge was to create a modern woman out of a 17th-century woman," says McGovern, describing

the character as "Madonna-esque" in ways. "She's not a rock star per se, but she has absorbed the Madonna message. She's comfortable with her own appetites, with that facade of 'I'm in control of my career, my choice, my sexuality, my life'. She projects the in-vogue way to be that Madonna taught us: she's a 25-year-old who has taken all that very much to heart."

Does the character tally with the sought-after McGovern of years past? "In some ways she is what I would have been if I could have pulled it off, basically: that is, someone who knows how to play the game, go to all the right parties, and embraces the game and loves it. I never really could manage to do that, so I'm having fun doing it on stage and in England."

That McGovern never gave herself over to the Hollywood system — "It was always much more alluring to go off and do plays" — is partly due to her background. Though Los Angeles-born, she was raised in an environment "about as far from show business as you could get". Her father was a law professor at UCLA; her mother teaches high school English. A film career, she says, was never inevitable. "I didn't grow up watching movies and absorbing



Elizabeth McGovern says she will create a modern "Madonna-esque" woman out of Molière's character

them like mother's milk. Somehow, we existed in a world that — even though it was in LA — was far from the Hollywood people have perceptions about, especially in England."

Now a mother herself — she and Curtis have a two-year-old daughter — McGovern has shifted her focus to domestic concerns in the family's Hamersmith flat, far from a Hollywood that in any case less often than it once did. A spate of movies over the years has hardly shown the actress to best advantage. Sergio Leone's *Once Upon a Time in America*, for example, playing Robert De Niro's girlfriend, or *She's Having a Baby*, which wasted both

her talents and those of Kevin Bacon. Everybody emerged badly from Volker Schlöndorff's chilly and ponderous 1990 film *The Handmaid's Tale*, and the best of her recent films — Steven Soderbergh's underrated *King of the Hill* — was seen by virtually no one. Her latest feature, *Wings of Courage*, is a 3-D venture.

"I'd love to be offered a good part in a movie, believe me. I don't feel cavalier about it," says the actress. But while some might balk at keeping such a distance from the industry that launched them, McGovern sounds genuinely pleased with the unexpected path her life has taken. "Having found myself in a

family with a child, I feel stronger and more grounded. I suppose, as a person, which makes me freer to enjoy my work. "I really think it would be wise not to write Hollywood off; I worked hard for ten years and just to abandon it is not something that interests me. But most important beyond making a living is working on material that I find exciting. Without a doubt it means as much for me to be working on this play now with these people as it does to do a big Hollywood movie."

● *The Misanthrope* previews from Thursday and opens next Tuesday at the Young Vic (0171-428 6363)

## Sharp points unhappily blunted by a dull cast

an historic comedy of manners. For all the satire of dead languages, there is a startling timelessness in this portrait of a youth pushing away his family, fixing on a new identity and fighting for his radical opinions. Holberg beat Denis Potter to the post by a couple of centuries in depicting a college boy dropped back into his rural community.

Moreover, *Erasmus Montanus* proves to be a polemical play of ideas and a drama of rising tensions as the snubbed

Erasmus Montanus BAC, Battersea

peasants (led by thickset David Peacock) turn the tables and bully the swot. With a hint of *The Crucible*, the superstitious villagers cry heresy on Erasmus's Copenhagen defence. The Deacon, beaten in Latin disputation, tries to label Erasmus as demonically possessed. Holberg flicks between perspectives, ridiculing the

vainglorious student, making him a mobbed missionary of the Enlightenment, or suggesting a devilish amorality in his educated arguments.

Greenwich Studio Theatre is a commendable fringe company, translating and staging little-known classics on a small budget. The downside is that the cast is not top-notch. Andrew Muir's Erasmus has the condescending preciousness of the scholar, but is too cold. There is no struggle in him when his sweetheart

urges him to sacrifice his school of thought. The set, with sawdust, timbers and the odd car wheel, has a DIY "old world" look. Find a designer.

Julian Forsyth's adaptation wisely replaces the Deacon's desperate out-takes of now-obscure grammar-book Latin with common phrases: *dulce et decorum et al.* Elsewhere, however, the contrasting speeches of pedant and peasant might be more idiomatically colourful. His joint direction with Margaret Forsyth could also be sharper. Ultimately, while the Earth may not be flat, one cannot say the same of the production. Still, this play is a discovery.

KATE BASSETT

## Misses between the hits

IN 1938, Jerry Lee Lewis, the Louisiana-born rock'n'roller known for his such as *Great Balls of Fire*, took a 14-year-old bride, *Kate Bassett* writes. To aggravate matters, the girl was his cousin. The public responded with horror; television and radio stations boycotted his music; Lewis vanished off the face of the earth. Or so it seemed.

Already a none-too-cute guy, Lewis started seriously hitting the bottle and popping pills, especially after the death of his son and mother. Still, the man made something of a comeback, via country music, in the 1960s.

Whole Lotta Shakin' Belgrade, Coventry

Yes, this is yet another rock star's life story recreated on stage. It is hard to believe that director Simon Usher really thinks Todd Wm Ristau's thin script is worthwhile theatre. The staging looks rather scrappy with a piano here, some amplifiers and mikes there, a rear steel balcony and photographs of Lewis in the wings. Jerry Lee ain't even dead yet, so the story ends in mid-air. But heck, the songs are what matters — as the star, played by Billy Geraghty, keeps telling us.

Actually, Geraghty's stage skills are also saving graces. His performance makes this show roll. Geraghty, who played Buddy Holly for three years, makes a passable Lewis with his slicked-back hair shaking loose. He also plays his white piano with real pizzazz, streaking his thumb-nail up the keys and jazzily quick-slammings chords, sometimes hitting the high notes with a heel or buttock.

The thumping beat gets monotonous as the songs pile up, while the snapshots of Lewis's life cut cursorily between his late and early career (Christopher Egan plays the young Lewis). The quieter country numbers and songs infiltrated with resurging religion are the most interesting.

The show's portrait of Lewis is pretty simplistic, underlining the pull between his strict religious roots and his going to the devil, tempted by the swinging blues clubs in his small hometown. One might presume the lesson to be learnt is to burn your pop record collection, for therein lies Lucifer. But this piece sketches Lewis's relationships so quickly, sometimes risibly so, that we have scant chance to feel sympathies or take moral stands.

Lewis's attraction to Myra the minor (Kate Wilton) is unexplored, making their marriage seem unremarkable. Still, Geraghty's achievement is to convey seedy arrogance and still exude the cool and charisma that got the audience jiving in the aisles.

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## A lively hoe-down for Beethoven

AS THE Emerson Quartet's complete Beethoven cycle gained momentum, it became increasingly apparent that the final pair of concerts would prove the most absorbing. Such stimulating players as the Emersons were always bound to be most exciting in the composer's late quartets, but there was also the feeling that as the series progressed, they communicated with the audience more directly and with greater intimacy.

Of course, no performances of this music on this level could fail to enthrall. The late quartets are among the profoundest of musical utterances: they were radical in Beethoven's time and still have the power to bewilder and amaze. Their complexities cannot simply be explained away in terms of the safe haven Wagner and the late Romantics provided.

Heard chronologically, as the quartets have been on the South Bank, there is also the mystery of Beethoven's return to relative simplicity in the final work, Op 135. It has often been seen as a conscious reintegration of the language Beethoven had just dismantled. But not only did the

RECI-TALS  
Emerson Quartet  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Emersons' witty performance of Op 135 shed objective light on its transcendental predecessors, it also suggested that Beethoven was indifferent, and was looking back with a shrug.

Such bold statements as Beethoven made call for bold performances, and that is what the Emersons gave. Although their "big" tone had, at times, been overpowering in the earlier works, it was surprisingly well suited here. Their sound is based on four different musical personalities working together.

In Op 132 (A minor), which opened Thursday's concert, they evoked the hushed mystery of the beginning and threw themselves into the fierce lines that follow, but not at the expense of the movement's soaring lyricism. The central Helliger Dantegsang had rapt intensity.

The B flat quartet Op 130 (just out on the Emersons' new Deutsche Grammophon disc) was the highlight of both evenings. The players relished the ambiguity of the opening, dispatched the Presto with virtuosity, and brought real affection to the German dance. Their *Grosse Fuge* had vigour and attack, and an unmistakable aura of expressionist madness.

After quartets in five and six movements, Friday's concert opened with one in seven — Op 131 in C sharp minor. The Emersons caught all its many facets, but the searching lines of the slow, concentrated fugue and the stamping rhythms of the finale were especially satisfying. The more conventional Op 135 in F was no less compelling, and the lively accents of its finale suggested that these American players had stepped out of a hoe-down.

Finally, they offered the alternative ending to Op 130 that Beethoven wrote, after Op 135, to replace the *Grosse Fuge*. Its Classical sheen is a little disturbing but it provided a perfect coda to this most memorable cycle.

JOHN ALLISON

Regim

Speaking





## ■ VISUAL ART 1

A barrage of hot colours is presented in a show of new Bridget Riley's at Waddington's



## ■ VISUAL ART 2

The Indonesian artist Heri Dono presents Oxford with an ironic view of life in his homeland

THE TIMES  
ARTS

## ■ VISUAL ART 3

Glimpses of an enigma-laden private world are on show in Rose Wornock's new London show



## ■ TOMORROW

Liverpool learns to exploit the market for pop nostalgia with a little help from a new musical

## Regiments of colour in close combat

GALLERIES: At 64, Bridget Riley shows no sign of moderating the visual demands of her art, says **Richard Cork**

Nobody could accuse Bridget Riley of pallid English reticence. Ever since she launched her first assault on our retinas, her work has never been afraid to dazzle and overwhelm. Riley is a fierce painter, flouting the stereotype of the "gentle" female artist with eye-bending verve. The toughness of her work has become legendary and in her 65th year she has no intention of dropping her guard.

Walk into her exhibition of recent paintings at Waddington Galleries and the visual barrage hits you at once. Flung at a disconcertingly low level, these high-keyed canvases pulsate with intense colour contrasts. Their surfaces are immaculate. Flat, orderly and calculated to a hair's breadth, they betray no sign of the artist's own mark-making. The paint is applied with impersonal precision. Sensuous brushwork is not permitted to seduce the viewer, or impede the clean, hard-hitting energy generated by Riley's particles of form. They demand a alert response and have no patience with the notion of a faint-hearted viewer.

Not that the Riley of the mid-1990s is quite as combative as the young artist who emerged 35 years ago. In that eruptive early period she restricted herself to black and white. Once viewers became ambushed and ensnared, they found themselves crushed by converging walls of rectangles or pulled into fierce whirlpools. In the Tate Gallery's *Fall*, painted in 1963, undulating lines rush down the canvas like an unstoppable flood. Most of those precocious, single-minded paintings are painful to look at and demand a formidable commitment from anyone who stares at them for a time.

The Rileys at Waddington do not require quite so much perceptual stamina. The harshness of black and white has been replaced, here, by an almost profligate richness of colour. If her early work was cold, the new paintings are not. Riley is unafraid to allow puce, orange, scarlet and maroon to play prominent roles. Even though Riley moderates them with light green, deep blue and bleached yellow, the overriding mood is one of Mediterranean radiance.

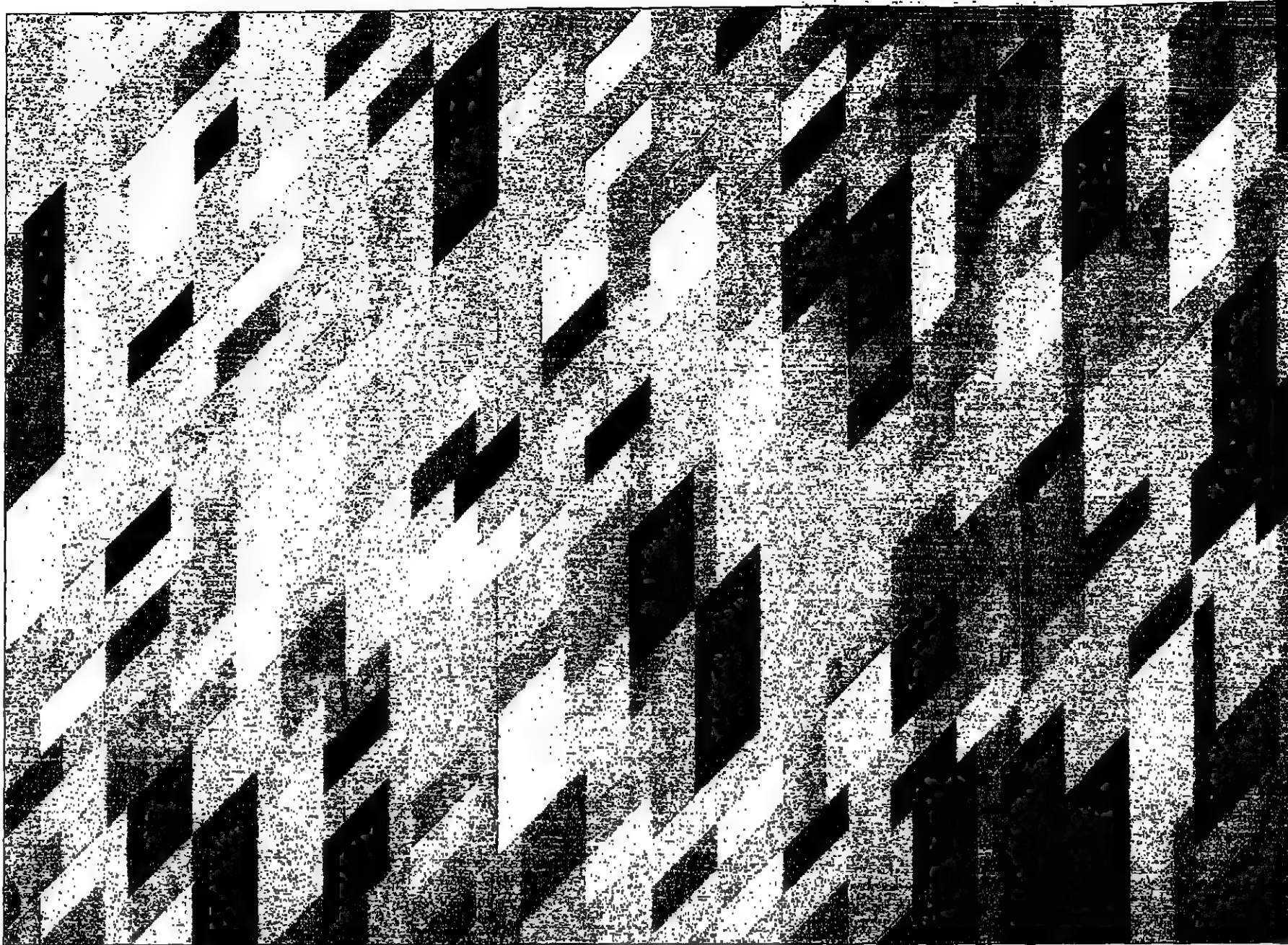
So how dependent is Riley on the stimulus of luminous surroundings? At Karsten Schubert, where

her recent gouaches are on show, many of the exhibits are inscribed with the name Bassac, where she stays in France. Executed between April and July of last year, they are all paler than the paintings and less busy in their congregation of forms. Strong uprights dominate each image, albeit sliced by diagonal intruders. They are reminiscent of trees, but Riley is enough of an abstractionist to make me wary of reading landscape references into her work. The light-suffused planes floating in these gouaches insist on a life of their own.

Like many abstract artists before her, in the High Modernist tradition to which she still proudly adheres, Riley is fascinated by the parallel between painting and music. She particularly admires *The Poetics of Music*, the lectures Stravinsky delivered at Harvard where he lauded the benefits to be derived from moving within the limits of a narrow frame. The idea that "music provides a sensual ex-

perience by the organisation of a limited range of formal means — notes, scales, intervals and their possible relationships" has a direct bearing on Riley's own hopes and ways of working. But that does not mean she shuts herself away, refusing to be aware of visual stimuli outside the studio. Robert Kudielka, who has written extensively on her work, recalled visiting Munich with Riley on a bright March day in 1972. Leaving the great collection of Rubens in the Alte Pinakothek, they wandered across to the Hofgarten and sat at a tree-sheltered table laid with a white cloth. "It was about midday," he remembered. "A waitress brought us glasses of wine which sparkled yellow and green. The light grew brighter and stronger every minute. . . . Bridget stopped and exclaimed 'Just look at it! Just look at it!'" There was, Kudielka went on, "nothing to look at in the proper sense of the word, no particular incident or object to be observed. It was rather as though we were sitting in the middle of an all-enveloping event."

Those final words apply very well to the experience on offer at Waddington. Standing in the gallery, I found myself surrounded by the vibrancy of the colours marshalled so exactly on the wide canvases. The titles Riley has chosen for these pictures — *In*



Vertical versus diagonal: Bridget Riley's *Reflection II*, 1994, exemplifies the way in which her strong uprights are counterbalanced by precise slopes of colour

*Attendance, From Here, Reflection and August* — are free from any dependence on a specific, observed location. They do not, however, rule out the notion of an artist responding to, and meditating on, a more general apprehension of time and place. For her, looking is a central activity and she can trace it back to childhood years in Cornwall.

While Barbara Hepworth was nourished by the intensity of her reaction to the landscape around St Ives, the young Riley went on cliff-top walks with her mother and discovered the intoxication of looking. She was lucky: Cornwall has a special ability both to sharpen and cleanse the perceptions of the artists who live there. But she also knew how to learn from that formative experience, and apply it

consistently to her work as a painter.

More, perhaps, than the majority of artists, Riley has always been highly disciplined; she imposes rigorous constraints on herself. In the Waddington exhibition, they are most apparent in the meticulous organisation of the images. Each picture is a patchwork of angular segments, systematic enough to rule out the inclusion of a single renegade curve. The proliferation of these segments generates a powerful sense of restless dynamism across the surfaces. They hover on the edge of shimmering.

But, despite her admiration for Seurat, whose exquisite *Le Pont de Courbevoie* she once carefully copied, they never become broken or blurred. Riley retains her passion

for hard definition. Her recent work is as crisply structured as ever, and within its spangled complexity she ensures that every unit of form retains a clear-cut identity.

The longer we look at her paintings, though, the less confident we become about finding our bearings within their bristling facets. The diagonal movements, which seem so dominant at first, are counterbalanced increasingly by the strength of upright, pillar-like presences. However forcefully they seem to be pierced by the diagonal shafts, they stay erect. And then we notice how ambiguously they really are. Riley never lets us decide which forms are solid. She plays with possibilities continually, in an almost teasing manner.

What starts out resembling a tree may well become a slice of sky.

The airiness of these new paintings is very striking. It suggests that Riley wants more and more to "break up the rigidity of her pictures and let them breathe". Sometimes in her earlier canvases, she would pack them so tightly that a distinct feeling of claustrophobia ensued.

Now, by contrast, the overall mood is more expansive. Hedonism has become a potent force, and Riley seems more prepared to let us establish our own relationship with her work. She is, perhaps, entering into a greater state of relaxation. The play of dappled light is omnipresent, encouraging us to feel blessed by its capacity to soothe. Riley is an admirer of Matisse, and what she describes as

his "great shout of joy". These new paintings seem suffused with the heat and luminosity of the south, and invite us to discover an awareness of well-being.

Even so, I cannot imagine Riley ever likening her art to Matisse's words, to "a good armchair in which to rest from physical fatigue". However many changes her art may undergo in the future, it will always insist on the ability to be bracing. A good Riley does its best to invigorate. It purges us of lazy ways of seeing, and invites us to scrutinise the world with renewed clarity, wonder and zest.

© Bridget Riley at Waddington Galleries, Cork Street, London W1 (0171-437 8611) and Karsten Schubert, Charlotte Street, London W1 (0171-431 0031), until March 2

## Speaking out by lying low

The Indonesian Heri Dono has brought his art — and his protest — to England. Sacha Craddock reports

A large gallery upstairs at the Museum of Modern Art in Oxford has been painted khaki. It is lit to appear simultaneously light and dark: an artificial twilight. Huge, bulbous tree-figures balancing on relatively delicate artificial legs amble across the gallery. Our view of the figures is like a child's: we have to look up to these strange, oversized wire-wrapped figures, with their emphatic chests and red lights on top. Military camouflage softens the gallery ceiling. Army boots, helmets and guns suggest a dangerous presence in the dusk.

*Blooming in Arms*, an installation by Heri Dono, a 35-year-old artist from Indonesia, is the culmination of a short residency at the museum. Dono is well-known in Japan, Australia and his own country, but this is his first exhibition here. During his stay he has made drawings, collages and watercolours (a selection of them is also on show in the library at the Institute of International Visual Arts in London). He has also given a performance in Oxford and lectured at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies. Throughout his time in Britain he has repeatedly addressed the question of how to make critical, political art in Indonesia — and survive.

The installation at Moma is laden with irony. The military regime in Indonesia simultaneously encourages people to plant trees as part of a "green" policy and allows the destruction of forests in Sumatra, Kalimantan and Irian Jaya.

The figures' false legs are a reference to landmines; the militarism, of course, reflects the presence of soldiers in the country's daily life.

Not that the connection between the message and intention behind a work and its success as art is necessarily automatic. For Dono, as he says in the exhibition catalogue: "What is important is to keep the quality of the ethical problem in art. Sometimes the political idea is good but the painting is not so good."

It was while being taught at art school in Yogyakarta, on the island of Java, that Dono first came across the perennial argument between followers of the "traditional" and the "modern": between an often artificially imposed concept of national identity, on the one hand, and the wholesale embrace of Western artistic values on the other. Dono is fascinated by tradition — his performance in Oxford was based on traditional puppet theatre — but maintains that it is no longer effective or possible for him to work in any single mode.

Dono lives, through choice, in a village away from his country's main centres. By using complicated but apparently naive methods, and by seeming simple in his approach, he creates plenty of opportunities to show his work. "I have to use tricks," he says. "I am an artist and I have to use my brain."

He explains how geographical distance from Jakarta, the capital, drunken local policemen, and a reliance on impromptu happenings have allowed him to keep one step



*Blooming in Arms*, Heri Dono's Oxford installation

ahead of those who would clamp down on his work. His 1994 piece, *Fermentation of Minds*, for instance — in which rows of cast heads were stuck behind rows of school desks, nodding in mechanical unison to the sound of chanting — was first seen in public when he simply put it out in front of his studio in the village. It is a matter of surviving, so that he can continue to make his art, rather than have his shows shut down. In Indonesia it is not unusual, he says, for an artist to be told an hour before an exhibition is due to open that it is not going to open at all.

The directness of his work has a lot to do with the diversity of its audience. Not only is there a multiplicity of cultural backgrounds and languages in his own country, but Dono acknowledges that a Western audience will have quite different visual expectations. By using a variety of media, from performance to painting and sculptural installation, and by mixing local

David Storey's legendary epic  
The Changing Room



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## CHOICE 1

**Funny to see you: Lee Evans opens a six-week West End season**

VENUE: First night at the Lyric Theatre

## CHOICE 2

**Deborah Harry joins the Jazz Passengers in swinging Camden**

VENUE: Tonight at the Jazz Café

## THE TIMES ARTS

## CHOICE 3

**Hardy's Jude the Obscure goes on stage in Exeter**

VENUE: All this week at the Northcott Theatre

## MUSIC

**Salzburg finds yet another way to honour its most famous son: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

## Mozart's second homecoming

**Stanley Sadie visits a new celebration of Salzburg's favourite son**



The old ballroom, the Tanzmeistersaal, is now part of the Mozart-Wohnhaus museum

Everyone who has been to Salzburg knows the Mozart birthplace museum, the Geburtshaus, by far the most popular composer museum in the world. Fewer will know the city's second Mozart museum. Until now this has been a decidedly modest affair, but since his birthday on January 27 it has become a serious rival attraction.

The new museum is in what is called the Mozart-Wohnhaus, or Mozart's Residence, in Makartplatz on the opposite side of the river from the old part of the city where he was born. The family moved there in 1773 when Wolfgang was 17 and father Leopold had finally decided that they were unlikely to escape from Salzburg and had better make the best of it. They moved to a spacious first-floor apartment in what was then Hannibalplatz, a part favoured by noble families.

There was room here for Leopold to trade in musical instruments and to take in resident pupils. The building was known as the Tanzmeisterhaus; it had been the property of a French dancing master earlier in the century, and the main hall, the Tanzmeistersaal, was still used for balls.

The half of the house lived in by the Mozarts was destroyed by bombs in 1944. The International Mozart Foundation had had designs on it long before then, but the owner eventually sold the site for development and, in spite of opposition, a six-storey office block was put up in the early 1950s. Mercedes cars were sold from the Mozart house.

But with the approach of 1991, the bicentenary year of Mozart's death, the foundation was able to raise enough funds to buy the office block. Demolition began in April 1994 and the foundation stone of the new building was laid in June.

The basic intention was to replicate the original building, at least at the first-floor level where the Mozarts lived. Broadly, this has been done: the three rooms along the Makart-Platz frontage and those round the corner along the Schwarzstrasse are much as they were.

The Tanzmeistersaal ballroom is the point of entry: used for small-scale concerts in recent years, this room is now restored in pale green and greyish white (the colours that careful scraping of the layers of paint suggest were used in Mozart's time) and has the famous Mozart family portrait by Johann Nepomuk della Croce as well as showcases, subtly lit, with exhibits chiefly concerned with Mozart works dating from his years in the house — such as the Haffner Serenade and the early piano concertos — and the games played by the Mozarts in the house and its garden. There are also a variety of keyboard instruments.

The theme of the museum is 'The Mozarts and their Salzburg Context 1773-80': its mo-

ti is an obelisk. Two are inscribed on the doorway. A giant glass one, bearing lettering in black, dominates the first front room of the Mozart apartment, which shows letters and operatic music from his years in the house (and broadcasts excerpts over the individual handsets); Mozart's tea and sugar box is here too. The next room, dedicated to Leopold, has two large obelisks, enclosing books from his own collection; the corner room is dedicated to Nannerl. These are simply exhibit rooms, but the next, a large one with an alcove, is furnished, lightly, with pieces of the period — in some degree an evocation of Mozart family

life. A further obelisk in the fifth room publicises the New Mozart Edition, prepared by the International Mozart Foundation, and shows a map of Mozart's travels; the visitor can illuminate any of the journeys and can see appropriate scenes on monitors while listening on the handsets to matching music. A still more appealing use of modern technology comes in the glass show room, where half a dozen projectors, some with revolving mirrors, some with zoom, offer a carefully coordinated and visually beguiling account of Mozart and Salzburg, in six languages, with appropriate music.

Some museumgoers might feel not unnecessarily that the opportunities offered by the house that Mozart lived in are only half acknowledged. There is not much here to suggest the man or his personality, curiously, Leopold; Mozart emerges perhaps more forcefully than his son. One is more conscious of artful design than of atmosphere or of the house as *locus* patris. But the new museum does appeal rather more than does the Geburtshaus, in its recently refurbished design, where the Mozart family rooms are unbelievably sparse.

Last month's opening ceremonies were partly an acknowledgement of the many and generous patrons who made the new museum possible, notably Dai-ichi Munishi, who played a central role in the funding. The artists at the opening events included the Berg Quartet in a taut, rather nerve-racking performance of two Mozart string quartets and Berio's *Notturno*. Trevor Pinnock and the English Concert gave a rousing performance of Haydn's *Missa in tempore belli* that thrilled the audience, and the Vienna Philharmonic was conducted by Nikolaus Harnoncourt in Beethoven and, of course, Mozart.

The colour-card of a concerto for orchestra at least gave individual sections their head, as did the final performance of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*. There were those bright woodwind characters, shamelessly coarse brass and there, too, was the enthusiasm and vitality.

Its musical discipline and understanding — and, of course, that of Semyon Bychkov — did not extend to Mahler's Second Symphony. This was an episodic caricature of a performance, edgy and ragged, and ennobled only by the committed singing of mezzo-soprano Jari Vesa, soprano Elizabeth Norberg-Schulz, and the London Symphony Chorus.

HILARY FINCH

## LONDON

**PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA:** The orchestra's talented young American soloists perform the concerto, conductor Hugh Wolff, and the orchestra for Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

VENUE: First night at the Lyric Theatre

**LEE EVANS:** Opening night for the rubber-boned comedian in the West End for a six-week season. Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-353 5049). Tonight, 7pm. Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 8pm and 8.30pm.

**JAZZ AROUND TOWN:** Improvisational saxophone, Gino Lauro and John Denham with a band for a special session in the cabaret setting of the Green Room. Meanwhile the Jazz Passengers and Deborah Harry turn up in Camden with their potent combination of music and comedy, drawing on the traditions of great jazz bands like the Art Ensemble of Chicago and Louis Armstrong's Hot Five.

VENUE: First night at the Lyric Theatre

**BEN HUR:** Performance Theatre, grand opera's first three men in a row. Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-353 5049). Tonight, 7pm. Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 8pm and 8.30pm.

**CARIN:** Lord Byron's biblical mystery while Abel's offering, it never gets off the ground. Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-353 5049). Tonight, 7pm. Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 8pm and 8.30pm.

**COMMUNICATING DOORS:** Arguably the most powerful and powerful of modern musicals, it's a powerful story of a hotel that takes her forward and back a couple of decades. Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-353 5049). Tonight, 7pm. Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 8pm and 8.30pm.

**THE GLASS MENAGERIE:** Sam Mendes's radiant production. Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-353 5049). Tonight, 7pm. Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 8pm and 8.30pm.

**FATHER OF THE BRIDE PART II:** Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-353 5049). Tonight, 7pm. Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 8pm and 8.30pm.

**THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET:** Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-353 5049). Tonight, 7pm. Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 8pm and 8.30pm.

**THE INNOCENT SLEEP:** Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-353 5049). Tonight, 7pm. Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 8pm and 8.30pm.

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## TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kira Anderson

## ELSEWHERE

**BRISTOL:** The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment opens its season with a concert of Baroque music. Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-353 5049). Tonight, 7pm. Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 8pm and 8.30pm.

**BUXTON:** Austen-mania continues, and the Good Company resumes its tour of Prides and Persuasions. Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-353 5049). Tonight, 7pm. Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 8pm and 8.30pm.

**DOVER:** The opera house opens its season with a concert of Baroque music. Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-353 5049). Tonight, 7pm. Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 8pm and 8.30pm.

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## THEATRE GUIDE

Jerome Kingdon's assessment of theatre showing in London

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## CINEMA GUIDE

Michael Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) in the country

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## LAW

DISPUTES BILL FIGHTS OFF  
FOREIGN RIVALS 39

Injured people have to fight hard for their rights in expensive and tortuous legal actions. But not all claims are as strong as the case study below



Theatre of the absurd: the problems of cost and delay in the field of medical claims bedevil all personal injury cases and expose the system's flaws

## Accidents do happen

But how should such cases be dealt with in the courts? Frances Gibb on the reforms of Lord Woolf

A huge question mark looms over how the legal system in the year 2000 will be handling people's claims for injuries. Law suits over accidents, medical mistakes, drugs or defective products are among the most expensive and tortuous in the civil courts. They can also be some of the most emotional. People with devastating injuries find themselves embroiled in a complex legal system which, by its adversarial nature, only adds to their pain (see right).

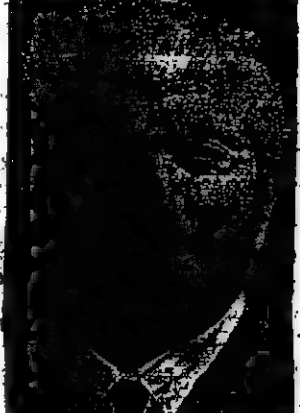
Lord Woolf, the law lord appointed by the Lord Chancellor to investigate the problems of civil justice and to recommend reforms, wants a change of culture. He has already outlined a series of radical reforms to make the system less lawyer-driven, to impose tight time limits on hearings and to make judicial managers.

Last week he issued a dossier of six consultation papers on some of the most intractable problems, including medical negligence, group actions (usually drugs or products) and the general issues of cost and expert evidence.

The problems of cost and delay bedevil all personal injury cases — but with medical accidents, the system is exposed at its worst. First, it is harder with such cases to establish causation and liability than with any other accident claims. Doctors' insurers — and doctors themselves — may strongly contest liability. In many cases, there may be no single identifiable cause of injury as with other accidents. Doctors are also understandably protective of their professional reputations, which they may feel are being wrongly impugned. Further, investiga-

tions, which require increasingly expert medical witnesses, are costly and protracted. All these problems, Lord Woolf said, may be aggravated by "distress and hostility on the part of one or more of the parties".

With medical negligence there is also the issue of



Woolf investigating problems of civil justice

hurdling. Nearly all medical negligence claims — as with those over drugs or products — are pursued with legal aid because of the excessively disproportionate costs involved. But whereas most accident claims are successfully settled, that is not so with medical negligence cases. It means what Lord Woolf called an "enormous drain on the public purse".

Sir Tim Chessell, chairman of the Legal Aid Board, told a recent conference held by AVMA (the Association for Victims of Medical Accidents)

that medical negligence claims in the year ending 1994 cost the health service £25 million. The total is now thought to have reached £150 million. Of some 12,000 medical negligence cases closed by the board in the year up to March 1994, only 12 per cent were successful; the normal success rate in personal injury claims is more than 90 per cent.

There is some concern (among the British Medical Association, the Bar Council and Lord Chancellor's Department) that the legal aid scheme funds too many unmeritorious claims. Dr Anthony Baron, a doctor who works with a law firm, points to arguably the biggest legal aid injustice: that the legally aided plaintiff does not have to pay the other side's costs if he loses. "The risk of litigation are thus tilted in favour of the plaintiff who has nothing to lose, against the defendant (and any insurer) who has nothing to gain but usually incurs irrecoverable expense".

Although legal aid is outside Lord Woolf's remit, his proposals will have a knock-on effect for the £1.4 billion legal aid budget. He was unequivocal about the need for change. There was, he said, a "heavy onus on both the legal and medical professions to find a better way to resolve allegations of medical negligence than exists at present".

Sarah Leigh, a specialist medical negligence solicitor who is co-ordinating the work for Lord Woolf in this area, has put forward various proposals to make the settling of claims more just and economic.

cal. The idea is to keep disputes out of the courts where possible by adopting agreed codes of practice for handling disputes. This would include record-keeping and reporting of accidents to help hospitals to dispose more quickly of claims, without litigation.

Smaller claims of up to £3,000, where victims often just want an explanation or apology, could be handled in-house, by trained hospital "claims managers". The Woolf paper asks if such mediation or in-house settlement should be compulsory for these cases.

When cases do come to trial, the approach should be more inquisitorial. Lawyers and judges should be specially trained. If cases move towards trial, there should also be agreed procedures to govern mutual disclosure of material and simultaneous investigation, where possible.

The proposals here chime with those for other civil claims: judges to take control of the pace of trials; the possibility of using a single expert witness, either appointed by the court or agreed by the parties; and a fast-track procedure for claims of up to £10,000 where there is a limit (say £3,500) on costs which can be recovered.

The most controversial of these is the idea for a single expert, and the compulsory settling of smaller claims without a court hearing. Janet Sayers, a partner with Kennedys, a law firm which acts for

defendant insurers in medical negligence and product liability cases, says: "We endorse the thrust of the inquiry as seeking to reduce litigation costs, improve speed and efficiency." But she is "strongly opposed to a single expert, jointly instructed, determining issues of professional negligence", and to small claims being resolved without a hearing.

Whatever the outcome, the question of future funding is critical so that people can pursue legitimate claims, and public funds are not wasted. But above that, Lord Woolf believes there needs to be a change of attitude: first, to develop a culture in which it is accepted that "doctors, like others, make mistakes". Secondly, when a mistake is made, it needs to be swiftly and publicly acknowledged, so victims receive adequate compensation without the need to battle with both legal and medical professions en route.

## Legal insult added to personal injury

The bitter criticisms of the legal system made last week by Ron Lipsius, one of the King's Cross Tube station fire victims, were a reminder to Lord Woolf of failures in civil justice which he is trying to rectify.

Mr Lipsius compared his seven-year fight for compensation, for hands so badly burnt that he can no longer earn a living as a professional guitarist, to the trauma of the 1987 fire itself, in which 31 people died including the person with whom he was travelling. Mr Lipsius, now 39, said London Transport (LT) had shown no sympathy, but prolonged his suffering with its unbending opposition. "People were killed," he said, "and they threw the survivors to the legal sharks."

His case was no worse than many other personal injury claims in the civil courts — and better than some, where liability is not even admitted. But its details have fuelled debate over the proposals so far floated by Lord Woolf for reform. One prominent plaintiff solicitor described Lord Woolf as "naïve", and questioned his awareness of the antagonistic tactics of many commercial organisations faced with personal injury claims.

Mr Lipsius issued his writ in January 1989. LT admitted liability and made interim payments totalling £225,000. But it did not agree any actual amounts of expenditure. Mr Lipsius was told only in December 1995 that £40,000 for his years of physiotherapy and £21,451 for surgery on his hands had been "properly incurred". Some minor items were also agreed then, such as £50 for the trousers burnt in the fire.

In January 1995 LT transferred the papers from its in-house litigation department to the City firm Herbert Smith. Howard Watson, handling the case, offered no more than the £225,000. Mr Lipsius's solicitor, Patrick Allen, then applied for a court date and amassed statements from 43 surgical, psychiatric and musical witnesses, including a 62-page statement from Mr Lipsius himself. Costs escalated dramatically.

Defendant witnesses included Maxwell Brittain, a musician, who produced a report highly critical of Mr Lipsius's pre-fire guitar playing. An employment expert, Mary Groves, was to testify to Mr Lipsius's ability, in current market conditions, to land a

sales job. The defendant, meanwhile, paid £500,000 into court. This offer, refused by Mr Lipsius, was increased to £600,000, then to £650,000 on the Friday before the trial's scheduled start. This fell below the lowest of Mr Lipsius's three future earnings claims, £700,000.

The legal costs were estimated at £200,000. With £225,000 already paid, Mr Lipsius faced potential financial ruin if he failed to increase that payment. On January 29 he accepted £650,000, to cover all treatment, loss of earnings and all other loss caused by the fire. "You just have to settle for less," he said, disappointed and battle-weary, "or go through an incredible amount of stress and may be get less."

Costs, for which LT is liable, are estimated at £300,000. Mr Allen denounced the aggression with which the case was fought, saying Mr Lipsius should have been given the benefit of the doubt: "Every case is taken on as a war. The defendants could have settled earlier and saved themselves money."

A spokesman for London Transport said it was "inappropriate" to discuss individual cases but that LT had "always expressed sympathy for the King's Cross fire victims and their families". She added that if Mr Lipsius had thought the settlement

unfair, he could have proceeded to trial. Ian Walker, a partner in the plaintiff firm, Russell Jones and Walker, and executive committee member of APIL, the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, said insurance litigation is increasingly aggressive. "Insurance companies are not there for plaintiffs. They are there for themselves. Some take ridiculous positions on liability and miserly attitudes to damages. Lord Woolf is naïve about how the system works." Mr Walker said, "Many insurers fail to apply cost-benefit analysis, or are simply incompetent."

Lord Woolf says: "I recognise the present system is unequal. I am not saying I am producing a perfect system but I am making the balance fairer." Mr Lipsius's remarks contrast starkly with the standard verbose discussions about the Woolf reforms: "I was treated as the enemy, the nightmare on the balance sheet. Lawyers fell into this, convincing themselves they are just doing a job."

DAVID CONN



Lipsius: "The survivors were thrown to the legal sharks"

## Order out of chaos

THE BAR Council has mounted a furious lobbying campaign to get as many chambers as possible to sign up to its new Pupillage Application Clearing House scheme (PACH) in time for the February 16 application deadline. David Perry-Davey QC, the chairman of the Bar Council, has been telephoning heads of chambers to press them to join. He describes the response as "very encouraging".

## Food for thought

MAGISTRATES in Richmond, Surrey, have been practising the kind of hands-on case management which judges are being encouraged to display. A report in the *Richmond & Twickenham Times* describes how magistrates refused a temporary drinks licence for a parent-teacher association party at Sheen Mount School, after police said there would not be enough food. The bench advised Philip Crowther, the man in charge of catering, to discuss his menu with police. When he returned next day and announced that a chicken casserole would be served, magistrates had no reservations about granting a licence.

## City slicker

WHICH law firm did City giant Clifford Chance turn to when it found itself sued for \$1.3 billion (£600 million) by four Canadian banks which have lost money in the Canary

Wharf bankruptcy? The firm declined to name its lawyers. But the solicitor charged with the job of saving Clifford Chance from writing a very large cheque — the lawyer's lawyer, he could claim to be — is partner Michael Seymour at fellow City firm Lovell White Durrant.

## Hearing aid

IF YOU want to hear your lawyers' voices before you instruct them, try calling a firm such as Lewis Silkin. If you progress far enough into the firm's automatic answering system, you will access a programme where each of the firm's lawyers in turn tells you their name and extension number. Some are very slow and precise. Some, hurry. Some politely say thank you. Some try to break the mould with a trendy approach. But perhaps the ones to avoid are those who get the message wrong, and forget to mention their number at all.

## Home thoughts

ARE THE judges getting nervous about offending Michael Howard? The National Association of Probation Officers (Napo) was given leave to go ahead with its judicial review of training plans only after Mr Justice Sedley asked for an undertaking that they would not be challenging the Home Secretary on grounds of reasonableness. Counsel for Napo, Edward Fitzgerald, told



Perry-Davey: asking chambers to join

the court that he thought it "questionable" that judges could extract such an undertaking and that it was contrary to public policy.

## Proper English

DAN NEEDLE and Simone Murray from the University of London Union won the European inter-varsity debate against stiff competition from across Europe. Michael Boots, of the University of Leiden in Holland, which also made it through to the finals, won the best speaker award.

City law firm Clifford Chance sponsored the event and its senior partner, Keith Clark, says: "Such was the quality of the speakers that the panel had quite a heated debate itself to choose the winning team. We were delighted that a continental

European team reached the final for the first time, although it was somewhat sobering to concede that the most articulate speech was delivered by a Dutch student."

## Charity challenge

TWO SOLICITORS — William Simmonds and Nicholas Woolf — from the law firm Woolf Simmonds have participated in the seventh Monte Carlo Challenge to raise funds for Barnardos. The five-day challenge, for vintage and classic cars, is said to be the toughest of its type. The lawyers drove a 1960 Morris Mini which they bought for the occasion. The pair are inviting donations; call 0171-262 1266 for details, or send cheques payable to Barnardos to the firm's office.

## Bar work

THE BAR's new complaints system is expected to cost up to £150,000 to put into place this autumn. The existence of the new system, through which people will be able for the first time to bring complaints of shoddy work against barristers, is likely to prompt more complaints than the current 450 a year — itself an increase of 24 per cent on the year before. David James, head of professional standards and services at the Bar Council, says in *Bar News* that this is causing an "almost intolerable strain in terms of workloads" and "excessive backlogs and thus delays". Meanwhile, opponents of the new scheme may still seek to force a second ballot or even a judicial review which could delay the scheme until next year.

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Frances Gibb reports on the battle to defend London as the arbitration capital of the world

# Disputes Bill fights off foreign rivals

London's reputation as the world centre for arbitration — an industry worth many millions of pounds — is facing challenge. A large proportion of arbitrations involve a foreign company or individual and huge volumes of commercial and international work is generated from the settling of their disputes.

For two centuries, the City of London's place as the arbitration capital of the world has been unchallenged. But increasingly other business centres — in France, Sweden, Holland and the Far East — are trying to seize a share of the business. Now the industry is fighting back. The Arbitration Bill, at present going through Parliament with all-party support, is set to revolutionise the law and the practice of arbitration, both domestic and international.

The Bill is the brainchild of Lord Justice Saville, the Court of Appeal judge who formerly headed the commercial court. Almost single-handedly, he has rewritten all existing law on arbitration into a single statute, and also modernised procedure in line with the trend towards more user-friendly ways of settling disputes.

The problem, he says, is that the law was scattered in a diffuse body of (often arcane) cases which made it hard for people to understand or find. The statute law is also spread across three Acts — in 1950, 1975 and 1979 — each largely a reaction to a specific perceived defect in the common law.

"We have highly developed rules and principles governing all aspects of arbitration,

which is one of the main reasons why this country has been and still is a world centre for arbitration. But there is a major defect in that it is very difficult, without expert legal knowledge, to find even the most basic of the rules and principles governing arbitration," Lord Justice Saville says.

There are other criticisms. Arbitration is in vogue as a way of resolving disputes outside the courts. The parties agree to appoint an arbitrator, usually an expert in the field,

Many arbitrations have become bogged down in court-like procedures and got more costly

and the hearing will take place in private. The idea is that it provides a quicker and cheaper way to settle disputes than going to court. But many arbitrations have become bogged down in court-like procedures, and got slower and more costly.

For two years there has been a movement to reform arbitration law. There was consensus on the need for reform, but not on how to do it. In 1985 the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law adopted a model law on international arbitration. The Department of Trade and Industry then set up an advisory committee under Michael (now Lord) Mustill, the law lord, on whether the model should be adopted in place of our laws. The committee in 1989 decided against, but recommended all existing law be

replaced with a new Act, using the language and framework of the model law.

That led in February 1994 to a draft Bill from the DTI which was essentially a consolidation measure. It was widely criticised: "It quickly became apparent from the large number of responses to the draft that this was not what was wanted," Lord Justice Saville recalls. In November 1994, he was appointed to take over chairing the committee from Lord Mustill (who had replaced Lord Mustill). His committee scrapped the Bill and began from scratch. It suggested a new structure which follows a step-by-step guide to arbitration, starting with general principles and the scope of arbitration agreements; how to begin proceedings; appointing an arbitrator; his powers, how it should be conducted and so on. "Every attempt was made to set out the provisions in ordinary English, without recourse to legalese. The idea was, in short, to provide a narrative which an ordinary person could read, and from which such a person could learn what arbitrating in England entailed."

The committee produced a draft which was published as an interim report. On the basis of that, parliamentary counsel was then brought in to draft a new Bill. The whole process has been remarkably quick. The first draft was out by July 1995, responses made in the summer, further drafts produced and a final Bill introduced in the Lords last December. The judge took just March 1995 off from judging

to work on what became the interim report and then a couple of weeks in October for the final draft.

The Bill is more than just a radical rewriting of the law. First, it strictly limits the right of appeal to the courts against an arbitration finding. One criticism of arbitration is that if one party does appeal, the courts have been too ready to overturn the finding. The courts will now be able to intervene in only limited circumstances. Secondly, it seeks to tackle the criticism that some arbitrations have become mini-courts.

The Bill imposes a statutory duty on arbitrators to adopt procedures suitable to the dispute; makes clear that hear-



Lord Justice Saville: almost single-handedly he has rewritten all existing law on arbitration

ings do not even have to be oral; and that it may sometimes be appropriate to adopt an inquisitorial approach.

One crucial reform will concentrate the minds of those using arbitration: the Bill provides that unless the parties otherwise agree, the tribunal may set a limit on the legal costs which they can recover, whatever they spend in practice. This will keep down costs. Lord Justice Saville argues, and prevent the inequality where one party, with bigger financial resources, "spends a lot of money on the case in the hope of frightening the other into settling."

What has emerged is tailor-made for the London arbitration industry of the future. Lord Justice Saville pays tribute to his committee, including Arthur Mayrion, a solicitor who "kept alive the idea that we could do something like this and that it was what was wanted."

But the DTI gives full credit to his own contribution. Jonathan Evans, the minister who saw the Bill published, said: "The work he has done is remarkable, in co-operation with the DTI and parliamentary counsel — and the universal view is that the Bill will make a great contribution in ensuring that London maintains its pre-eminence in arbitration work."

## The money experts take legal action

Catrin Griffiths looks at the law firms set up by accountants

Legal feathers have been ruffled this week with the news that the accountancy firm, Price Waterhouse, is setting up an associated legal practice in direct competition with law firms. The firm is following in the footsteps of Arthur Andersen's lightning strike at the legal scene in February 1993, when the world's biggest accountancy firm established Garrett & Co.

"Price Waterhouse UK has been only too aware of what Andersen has done with Garrett," says Ian Taplin, Price Waterhouse's tax partner. "We have been monitoring it to see if we could do something similar."

Setting up Price Waterhouse's legal arm is being done by Chris Arnheim, Hammond Suddards' City partner, who approached the firm early last year. No stranger to start-up ventures, Mr Arnheim — who was still negotiating exit terms at press time — established Hammond's corporate practice in London four years ago.

Because Price Waterhouse is constrained by Law Society rules disallowing multidisciplinary practices and formal fee-sharing arrangements, it can only opt for the same route as was taken with Garrett & Co: setting up a separate law firm but selling it as the first step to a one-stop shop. "It is a potential enhancement of our service to clients," says Mr Taplin. "We have a vision of developing a good quality commercial capability in a fairly short period of time."

Price Waterhouse's confidence in the immediate growth of the venture is underlined by the fact that it has allocated office space for ten lawyers. Now that there are two major accountancy firms in the market for legal services, the UK corporate lawyers — initially sceptical about Garrett & Co — cannot ignore the threat to the legal status quo. "I welcome the move — it shows we're in the right market at the right time," says Julia Chain, Garrett & Co's managing partner.

According to Mr Taplin, Price Waterhouse made the move in order to fill the gap in its European network, which covers France, Spain, Portugal and Germany. However, UK lawyers are unlikely to see it as anything other than a

challenge to corporate practices here. "It is clearly a challenge to law firms," says Bill Tudor John, a senior partner in City firm, Allen & Overy. "As soon as Arthur Andersen moved into the area it was obvious that other firms would follow."

Price Waterhouse's venture will almost certainly flush out other major accountancy practices which have been quietly circling the legal market. The accountants could certainly tap into the dissatisfaction felt by partners in mid-tier commercial law firms. As one senior insolvency lawyer puts it: "The phones will be hot. It could turn the legal profession on its head."

● The author edits Legal Business magazine

## FAB FEB

### BANKING/FINANCE

With 1-3 years' exp in all aspects of lending and recovery in a highly commercially oriented banking department, you will find this City firm's approach to property finance transactions refreshingly progressive. With a dozen lawyers in this team, the instructions are of the highest calibre owing much to its well managed approach. Prospects outstanding for forward looking junior assistant. First class remuneration.

### US SECURITIES LAWYER

US lawyers, currently in London with a US firm on secondment, will find this top City UK firm able to offer highest calibre multi-national, transactional work, as well as the opportunity to remain long-term in London. One of English law's leading corporate firms, our client offers US qualified associates a career path and remuneration akin to that afforded by US secondments in London.

### INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

First class City private practice with a matching client base require an intellectual property assistant with 1-3 years' exp. Encompassing a mix of contentious and non-contentious work, experience of information IP is preferable, as is ambition and intellect. The salary and benefits are superb, with a well managed infrastructure of support and training.

### OUTSTANDING

US lawyers, currently in London with a US firm on secondment, will find this top City UK firm able to offer highest calibre multi-national, transactional work, as well as the opportunity to remain long-term in London. One of English law's leading corporate firms, our client offers US qualified associates a career path and remuneration akin to that afforded by US secondments in London.

### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Dynamic international firm universally regarded as one of the City's finest has immediate need for high flying additional telecommunications specialist at partner level. With exposure to both transactional and regulatory (including EU) issues you will have plenty of contacts in the telecoms field in both Europe and Worldwide. Top flight assistants may be considered for quick track/immediate partnership. You will have outstanding quality experience and ambitions to play a leading role in this high profile sphere.

### PROJECT FINANCE

Highly respected City firm with range of international offices and clients requires 2-4 year qualified lawyers with quality projects experience likely to have embraced non-contentious energy work and banking matters. You will join an outstanding department committed to enabling its assistants to develop rounded legal experience as well as allowing for plenty of foreign travel.

### CORPORATE TAX

City major with string of international offices and outstanding public company clientele require corporate taxation specialist with up to three years' exp to join this highly respected team. Much of its workload is self generated acting in an advisory and regulatory capacity. Other work is corporate support related. This go-ahead firm provides excellent training and career prospects.

### PARTNERSHIP

Dynamic international firm universally regarded as one of the City's finest has immediate need for high flying additional telecommunications specialist at partner level. With exposure to both transactional and regulatory (including EU) issues you will have plenty of contacts in the telecoms field in both Europe and Worldwide. Top flight assistants may be considered for quick track/immediate partnership. You will have outstanding quality experience and ambitions to play a leading role in this high profile sphere.

## LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

### IN-HOUSE/PRIVATE PRACTICE

#### EQUITY/COMPLIANCE

Top international investment house seeks UK/US lawyer with top academic credentials and a minimum of 5-6 years' exp experience in European capital markets either from a leading law firm or a securities house. Top notch technical expertise in equity cash and derivatives markets both domestic and international as well as a familiarity with UK compliance issues essential. Top salary. Ref: T24589

#### EXCITING IN-HOUSE

1-3 years commercial law with excellent drafting and analytical skills as well as a robust personality. You will enjoy being involved in both the legal and the business side of this highly dynamic Central London environment which will involve cutting deals with broad-based sponsors etc. Very much a fun place to work and an excellent first career move. Ref: T14251

#### IN-HOUSE IP

Controversial IP expertise from the Bar or reputable London City firm with ideally a European language to work in this international publishing company located in Central London undertaking copyright disputes, contract negotiation throughout the world, working closely with the main board. Ideally between 1-3 years' and a strong commercial awareness. Exciting working environment. Ref: T24524

#### IN-HOUSE COMPUTER

Forward Head of Legal Department with well known and international company. Ideally between 3 and 6 years' qualified but may look slightly more senior from a major City practice. Commercial IT expertise. Must be robust and confident and able to deal at all levels within this company. Ref: T24558

#### IN-HOUSE M&A

You must have at least one other European language with some US exposure and not less than 4 years' M&A and joint venture experience on a consistently international basis. Will look at European and US qualified lawyers. You will come in as a senior legal adviser taking on a broad range of transactions. Loss of travel. Must be lively with a good sense of humour. Excellent package. Ref: T25941

#### IP/IT

Top City firm practice now seeks a 1-3 years' exp IT/ITP solicitor to do a mix of commercial/contractual work including IP work in all its forms, corporate and litigation matters and issues with technological or scientific content. You will have a first class academic background and be eager to assimilate from first hand, demanding role. Ref: T16039

#### CONSTRUCTION

Leading City firm with burgeoning reputation in this area seeks 1-3 year qualified lawyer for a broad ranging role including High Court litigation and arbitration. Ideally from top construction practice and seeking greater responsibility and prospects. Civil engineering background is highly desirable. Ref: T15987

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Greg Abraham, Seamus Hoar or Jane Meszár (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-485 4860/0171-246 5501 or 0171-403 3327 (evening/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglas Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EJ. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.



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### PETER WILBRAHAM & CO SOLICITORS PLANNING SOLICITORS

Peter Wilbraham & Co is a specialist practice, dealing solely with planning and environmental law. We handle a wide range of major development proposals for the private and public sectors. We now require two solicitors to complement our high quality team.

The first solicitor will have at least five years' experience of planning law, preferably a keen advocate and now in private practice.

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### UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Development Office/Law Faculty  
Development Executive (Law)  
Academic-related Administrative Grade 3  
(Salary £22,374 - £26,430)

The University wishes to appoint a Development Executive to help promote, and then to implement, a unified strategy for raising money for the development of legal studies throughout the University. The postholder will be required to work closely with academics of the Law Faculty, with Development Office colleagues and, where appropriate, with College Development Directors, as well as with outside volunteers to help identify potential donors. The ability to provide professional support and advice for an interdisciplinary fund-raising team is an essential attribute. Candidates, who should preferably be graduates but not necessarily of law, should show an understanding of (or an interest in learning about) Oxford University, its structures, how it functions and what its financial needs are. A knowledge of the legal profession would be desirable but is not essential. The post demands initiative, tact, creativity, organisational ability, and excellent interpersonal and communication skills. Fund-raising experience, preferably in a university, would be useful.

This is a fixed-term three-year appointment on Academic-related Administrative Grade 3 (£22,374-£26,430) but an appointment at Grade 2 (£16,826-£21,430) may be offered with some consequential adjustment in duties for a person with less experience and/or qualifications.

Further particulars of the appointment may be obtained from the Deputy Registrar (Administrative), University Office, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD. (Tel. 01865 270003), to whom applications, including a detailed curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of two referees should be sent by 20 February 1996.

The University wishes to promote excellence in education and research, and is an equal opportunities employer.

### LEADING CITY FIRM

is seeking a 2/4 PQE Solicitor to join their Corporate Finance Group. Must have extensive experience of major transactional work.

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Two Solicitors (company/commercial, commercial property and litigation) with quality client bases seek dynamic individual solicitors with established followings of £100,000 plus to join them in creating a broadly based new commercial practice in EC4.

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## LEADING IT COMPANY

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Our Client is a key division of one of the world's largest telecommunications companies, dedicated to the marketing, support and servicing of its comprehensive range of information solutions, across worldwide markets.

#### LONDON

The Legal and Commercial Department based in Central London, is a small, close knit team at the very hub of the business process, performing a full in-house function. This ranges from complex IT issues (systems integration, hardware sales and software licensing) to employment and other advisory matters. Continued growth has necessitated three strategic appointments:-

#### COMMERCIAL LAWYER - 3-5 YEARS' PQE

Already with some in-house experience and with extensive exposure to commercial contracts.

#### SENIOR CONTRACTS MANAGER

With at least 3 years' commercial contracts experience, ideally with an IT bias.

#### JUNIOR CONTRACTS MANAGER

Having gained at least 1 year's experience of commercial contracts work.

#### FARNBOROUGH

#### SENIOR CONTRACTS MANAGER

In addition, our client also seeks a senior contracts manager for its systems and technology operation based in Farnborough.

Ambitious, proactive and commercially-minded individuals will be rewarded with competitive remuneration packages (including car and bonus), in one of the world's leading multi-nationals.

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## CHAMBERS

#### The First Offer

One of our candidates was not kept on by his firm at the end of articles simply because there was no opening for him. The senior partner was so impressed with him that he offered him a job after his first interview. The firm impressed him, and the job was exactly what he was looking for, but he naturally hesitated. If I'm that good, he may have thought, there will be better jobs around. In the end he accepted, and is pleased, in fact, that he did.

Another candidate in similar circumstances turned the job down and spent the next six months on the job-market, regretting that he did. The advice that the senior partner gave was good: it isn't wise to accept the first offer unless you are absolutely sure about it. But there is a difference: if the offer comes after a first interview arranged by an employment agency, the aim of the agency will be to select a few vacancies which seem ideally suited. It is likely, therefore, that the first interview will be for a job where the work will be what the candidate wants, and the candidate will fit the employer's needs. Not surprisingly, there is a good chance that the job will be offered. And if it is turned down, it may be some time before such a vacancy comes up again.

Michael Chambers

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#### INDUSTRY & BANKING Sonya Rayner and Bridget Burdon

**Asset Management:** London  
Investment Bank requires lawyer to handle Europe & Far East fund management business. Work includes fund management, offshore funds, broker & FX terms, JVs, emerging markets, IMRO rules.

**FSAs City**  
Opportunity for two lawyers, one senior and one junior, with strong FSA experience. Work will include advising on a broad range of matters, including authorisation, investment ads and regulatory issues.

**Compliance City**  
Opportunity for lawyer with c. 10 yrs' exp. incl. min 5 yrs' fund management exp. to join investment management co. Work to incl. compliance, advice on fund management, IMRO rules.

**Corporate Lawyers:** London  
Solicitor with approx 5 years' corporate law exp. to join successful US corporation. Must be prepared for overseas travel. European languages useful.

**Corporate Lawyers:** Hong Kong  
Excellent opportunity for solicitor with approx 5 years' exp. of M&As and JVs to join highly successful international corporation. Previous experience of working in the Far East preferred.

**Oil/Gas Lawyers:** Aberdeen/London  
Senior opportunities for experienced energy lawyers to join major oil companies. At least 5 yrs' experience required, particularly in gas sales and transportation. Exp. of both English and Scottish legal systems ideal. Excellent remuneration.

#### PRACTICE London: David Jermyn, David Woolson, Melanie Mitchell-Baker South: Helen Mills, Yasmin Hosen Midlands: Lauren Cochrane North: Sukh Bagra

**Partnership Practices**  
We have been assisting partners seeking a career move for over 20 years now and are regularly placing several partners each month.

**Full-Time Tax Know-How:** City  
Highly regarded tax practice of leading firm seeks solicitor with at least 4 years' relevant experience for full-time non fee-earning role.

**Litigation Partners:** West End  
Busy firm with expertise in both crime and civil litigation. Mainly privately-funded. Small part-following useful.

**Oil & Gas Partners:** City  
Outstanding City energy practice seeks oil and gas partner. Only part-following required as firm has substantial surplus work.

**Corporate Tax NQ:** City  
Top 10 City firm with superb corporate client base seeks newly or recently qualified solicitor to join its thriving tax practice.

**Insurance Litigation:** City  
Highly successful niche firm seeks a 2-4 yr qual to work with new partner on subrogation, fire and other property damage claims, prof neg and subrogation.

**Corporates Central London**  
NQ solicitor thriving London office of well-known regional firm. You will gain high quality exp. incl. Yellow Book and private overseas work.

**Company Commercial:** Leeds  
0-3 year qualified solicitor sought to handle an interesting range of commercial contracts.

**NQ Property:** Kent  
Ambitious newly qualified with strong property experience for role offering real partnership route.

**Commercial Litigation:** Harfordshire  
Expanding commercial firm seeks a 3-5 year litigator for qualified commercial caseload.

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## Head of Retail Property

Our clients are a 40 partner City firm with a strong Property Department and a particular reputation for retail expertise. They are instructed regularly by a dozen household name retailers as well as by many developers.

They wish to appoint a Partner of the highest calibre to head the Retail Group assuming responsibility for maintaining quality and market share from existing clients and continuing the Department's expansion in this area.

The successful candidate will be experienced and well connected in the field; will have real flair for developing the practice from this very strong base; and will command a package fully reflecting the importance the firm attaches to this appointment.

This assignment is being handled exclusively by Graham Gill & Young.

Please call Jeremy Bird or Dominique Graham on 0171-430 1711 or write to them at 46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN. Fax: 0171-831 4186.



#### LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

## SENIOR FINANCE LAWYER

### EXCELLENT (+BENEFITS)

#### The Client

A highly prestigious UK institutional organisation, our Client's Legal Department is substantial, well structured and has a real commercial ethos. Grouped into a number of specialist teams, its functions are extremely broad, encompassing advice in relation to finance and corporate capital, insurance, regulation and litigation. Much of the work has an international dimension, notably in the USA, Canada, Australia, South Africa, Singapore, Switzerland and Japan.

#### The Position

A senior lawyer is now sought to join a dedicated team, currently composed of five lawyers, responsible for the organisation's financing, capital and security arrangements. Working closely with the Treasury and Financial Services Departments, the team deals with the organisation's banking arrangements as well as the deposit, investment and transfer of substantial funds across the world. After an initial period of induction, it is intended that responsibility for the team and its development will be assumed by the successful candidate.

#### The Person

You will be a qualified solicitor with a minimum of ten years' post-qualification experience, gained either in-house or in private practice. A finance and banking background is essential, together with an understanding of the Financial Services Act regime. You should have a proven track record of academic and professional achievement, a high degree of personal credibility and demonstrable managerial and leadership skills.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Andrew Russell on 0171-377-0510 (0171-622 6213 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Zarnik Macrae Brannan, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential Fax: 0171-247 5174. E-mail: andrew@zmb.co.uk



## CITY SOLICITORS

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Having achieved pre-eminence in a number of areas, this c.70 partner firm seeks to build upon its renowned strengths, hence the need for a 6-2 yr PQE comm prop solicitor to handle a general caseload.

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With a growing reputation for LR expertise a solicitor with strong patent lit experience is sought by this c.70 partner firm. You will have 2-4 years PQE and ideally a science or engineering background.

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The requirement to specialise focus most solicitors in City firms at increasingly early stages in their careers. When should you specialise and in what area? Your ideas in this respect may well be different from those of your firm. We have a very broad overview of the legal market and are therefore well placed to advise on these matters; so for an impartial opinion why not speak to us.

For advice or further information on these, and many other current positions, please contact Joie Garrett or Ben Williams on 0171 404 6469 (evenings/weekends: 0181 874 8390), or write to us in complete confidence at 6 Warwick Court, London WC1R 5DJ (fax 0171 404 0469).

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Providing to international clients with effective commercial advice this c.50 partner firm seeks dynamic lawyers with 1-3 yrs PQE to handle challenging corporate transactional work.

**CORPORATE TAX** to £44,000  
Exceptional prospects mark out the highly regarded Tax Department of this leading firm which seeks a top flight tax lawyer (2-4 years PQE) to support complex banking and corporate transactions.



## INVESTMENT BANKING

#### Documentation Specialist

A number of positions exist within a variety of leading City financial institutions for documentation specialists, (not necessarily qualified lawyers), with 2-5 years' exp.

Ref: 24451

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Junior lawyer with 1 year's ppe is required for a leading securities house. Work will include debt transactions, asset-backed loans, MTN's, some equity derivatives and M & A work.

Ref: 27316

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Position for a junior lawyer, with 1-2 years' ppe, to negotiate varied capital markets documentation including ISDA's, repos, OTC bond option agreements and some commercial paper.

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Opportunity to be senior member of OTC derivatives team. Ability to make an immediate contribution within this well-supported, commercial environment essential.

Ref: 24856

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An international investment bank is seeking top-quality banking lawyers. Ideally, applicants should have between 1 and 4 years' general banking experience with a leading City firm.

Ref: 25333

To discuss these opportunities in total confidence please contact Claire How LLL (Home) or Sarah Humphreys LLL (Home) BL.

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THE PSD GROUP

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They have instructed us to search for a high calibre candidate who can demonstrate the ability to become a partner and is ready to meet the challenge. The ideal candidate will be 5-10 years ppe, have broad company commercial experience and an established reputation and be looking to make a final career move. An excellent communicator who has the qualities to lead, but is also an effective team player, you must also be committed to business development. A client following is desirable as is experience or a genuine interest in LT. The successful applicant will be rewarded with an excellent package and benefits.

To discuss this opportunity further please call Sam Lison on 0171-430 2349 or 0181-744 2307 (eve/Wk) Ref: 1837

Richard Owen & Harper, Kingsway House, 103 Kingsway, London WC2B 6QX  
Tel: 0171 430 2349 Fax: 0171 831 2536. DX 37964 Kingsway.

### Environmental Lawyer

Central London c£50,000

This prominent, medium sized commercial firm has long been an established presence in the area of UK and EC environmental law. It has experienced significant growth in this specialist field and is now keen to recruit a lawyer with around 4 years' experience.

Led by a practitioner widely respected in the field, the team advises on the environmental aspects of corporate transactions and on e.g. waste management, contaminated land, waste to energy and EC environmental policy. You will be expected to be an immediate contributor to the team having gained sufficient relevant experience to demonstrate a real understanding of the issues facing your clients and displaying commitment to this developing field. Defined partnership prospects make this a significant career move.

To discuss this opportunity further call Stephen Watkins on 0171-430 2349 or 01787-237669 (eve/Wk) Ref: 1941







## LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

## REID MINTY

Following substantial expansion through our Gulf State and American connections, we are looking for three senior level appointments to capitalise on our successful marketing in the following fields:-

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You must have experience of joint venture work, and preferably industrial and technology development projects.

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Candidates for the above should be ambitious, willing to travel and, if necessary, reside temporarily abroad. You should also have a track record of client development, and although a following is not necessary, at this level we would expect any candidate to have generated significant client loyalty.

You should also be prepared to take responsibility since our philosophy emphasizes budget driven partner led service.

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Two to three years' PQE to work on varied caseload ranging from property and construction litigation through to defamation and Commercial Court work.

If you feel globalisation is the future, but want more individual involvement and reward from your own efforts, and want to join a firm whose remuneration policy rewards entrepreneurial ability ahead of simple equity locksteps, then telephone or write to:

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## BHP SENIOR CORPORATE LAWYER

BHP Petroleum is a significant world-wide petroleum company. Its Australia/Asia Region produces significant oil and gas from Bass Strait, NW Shelf, Timor Sea and Vietnam, has exploration projects Australia-wide and in Asia, and major ongoing business development projects.

The Company seeks a commercial lawyer with at least 10 years' experience. You will have had exposure to the resources industry, especially oil and gas. An understanding of Asian business culture will be highly regarded.

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In addition to your legal skills, you will need strong communications skills and the maturity to accept a high level of responsibility.

Remuneration will be negotiated to ensure our client attracts the right person. Relocation assistance is available. Some interstate and overseas travel will be required.

**LOCATION: Melbourne Head Office.**

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Dynamic Property Department at highly regarded City law firm seeks a career opportunity to recruit 2-4 years qualified lawyers with proven technical and client handling skills. Central role in a challenging and high profile development, investment and real estate work. Some corporate support. Department continues to be one of the most well resourced in the City. (Ref: 6243)

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England's quest for flexibility must be based on traditional strengths

# Richards needed to restore old order

BY DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WILL CARLING, who has been far more positive about England's erratic victory over Wales in the rugby union five nations' championship than many of the team's critics, called yesterday for the earliest possible selection of the XV to meet Scotland next month. Whether the captain's wish will be granted, however, lies in the hands of Jack Rowell, the manager.

Rowell has much to ponder in a season when, after four matches, England have shown little sign of coherent rugby. In particular, he must consider whether to modify his approach so that his players can ensure that fundamental elements of their game, the set pieces, are in working order.

"Geoff Cooke was a meticulous planner, a great man for detail," Carling said of the manager who preceded Rowell. "Jack's view is that you need players who can play to develop a broader canvas." Rowell claims to articulate the squad view rather than his own and Carling denies any difference of opinion between him and the manager.

However, Rowell's hope that the same squad would serve throughout the championship must come under review. The lineup is not functioning, which, given the proven abilities at lock of Martin Johnson and Martin Bayfield, suggests Mark Regan's place at hooker is under threat. The short-term choice as a replacement is Graham Dawe, although his throwing-in is not the best part of his game, and the long-

term is represented by Richard Cockerill, of Leicester, or Phil Greening, of Gloucester.

To select either against Scotland on March 2 would be a gamble. There must also be an acknowledgment that too many wise old heads have departed. Neither Dean Richards nor Andy Robinson enjoy making up the numbers at squad weekends and both regard themselves as capable of international rugby.

Of the two, Richards would provide a core of common sense, which seems patently lacking in the England pack. His return, probably at the expense of Tim Rodber, would help to restore traditional strengths at scrum and lineout.

Don Rutherford, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) technical administrator, has acknowledged that some of England's rugby in the 21-15 win

last Saturday was sterile. "People want to be entertained and just winning isn't going to be acceptable any more," he said. "People felt short-changed."

England have pleaded a change of personnel in mitigation for their uninspired form, but it does not appear to have upset Scotland, who have a clutch of inexperienced players in key positions yet now lead the table. They will name their team to play Wales on February 17 tomorrow, while the French brace themselves today for four or five changes against Ireland. Experienced players such as Olivier Merle and Thierry Lacroix face the guillotine.

Carling's knee injury is likely to keep him out of the delayed Pilkington Cup tie between Harlequins and Newcastle at Kingston Park on Saturday, but the RFU has

confirmed that, whatever the International Rugby Football Board stipulation about 180-day transfer periods, Nick Poplewell, the Ireland prop, may take his place in the Newcastle front row.

Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, wants a conference of rugby-playing countries in Europe, so that a formal agreement can be reached, over transfers which does not conflict with European Community law. "You can have an open gateway between EC countries providing the unions affected agree to the transfer," Hallett said after consultation with lawyers.

"Only when one union says no to a transfer will we get a test case and I believe that should be handled by the governing body, rather than an individual club. All our advice is that, if clubs have agreed terms, a refusal would not be sustainable."

## English Open kicks off new world tour

THE English Open table tennis tournament will be the opening competition in an eight-event professional tour that will culminate in a final in China (Richard Eaton writes). The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) tour will carry total prize-money of £250,000 (£165,000) with the English Open, to be staged at Kettering Arena from April 3 to 8, worth £30,000.

The English Table Tennis Association is still looking for a suitable sponsorship deal. The ITTF is talking to the International Management Group about promotion and sponsorship of the tour, and the likelihood is that, while the final will be sponsored, an umbrella sponsorship may have to wait until the 1997 tour. With the world's best players likely to be attracted to Kettering, the 1996 English Open could be the highest-quality competition held in this country since the 1977 world championships in Birmingham.

## Playing numbers game

RUGBY LEAGUE: The Super League is set to abandon the traditional one to 13 numbering on shirts by following the example of the FA. Carling Premiership in football, in adopting squad numbers and names on players' backs. The proposal by chief executives of the 12 clubs goes before the Rugby League Council tomorrow. Choley, of the second division, have appointed Kevin Tamaiti, the former Salford coach and New Zealand prop forward, as successor to Bob Eccles. London Broncos have made Bev Rismann, a former dual international, director of development.

## Henman's promotion

TENNIS: Tim Henman, right, who was ranked No 276 in the world eight months ago, has climbed to a career-best No 79 after reaching the semi-finals of the ATP Shanghai Open last week. Henman, 21, from Oxford, is now only 40 places behind Canadian-born Greg Rusedski. Bradstreet has seven more in the top 200 in the world, yet the women only Claire Wood is in the top 200 at No 169.

## Italian beats elements

SKIING: Werner Frazerthor celebrated his first World Cup victory of the season in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, yesterday. The Italian won a demanding super-giant slalom race that was postponed from Sunday because of fog and then stopped repeatedly so that repairs could be made to the course. Frazerthor, whose only other World Cup victory came in Kvitfjell, Norway, last season, completed the 1.36km course in 1m 19.62sec. Loc Alphonse, of France, was second in 1m 19.83. Patrick Wirth, of Austria, finished third.

## Wenton challenge

BOXING: Richie Wenion, the British super-bantamweight champion, has a chance to win a Lonsdale Belt outright when he defends his title against Wilson Docherty, of Scotland, at the Basilidon Festival Hall, tonight. Docherty, who has won the British title, is a former world champion and is expected to be a serious challenger. Wenion, in a world title bout against Daniel Wainwright, of England, in Mansfield recently. Wilson is not quite in Drew's class, but he has the stamina and determination to test Wenion.

## Barker goes through

RACKETS: Guy Barker justified his seventh seeding with a narrow defeat of the powerful Tim Crook in four exciting games to reach the quarter-finals of the Lacoste British Open championship at Queen's Club. Crook, who in April partners Willie Boone in the world doubles eliminator, started strongly, but Barker raised his game to secure victory. He now meets Boone, the second seed and former world champion, who beat the Queen's Club professional, David Johnson.

## Bruce seals new contract to stay at United

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON AND DAVID MADDOCK

STEVE BRUCE, 35, the Manchester United captain, yesterday agreed a new contract with the club that will run for a further 18 months and earn him up to £1.5 million.

His basic salary over the period will be worth £600,000, but he also stands to gain another £750,000 if he can fill Old Trafford, with its new capacity of 55,000, for a testimonial match planned for next season. Bonuses and a new signing-on fee will take the figure close to the £1.5 million.

Bruce said: "I must admit I thought seriously about hanging up my boots and going into management. But I had some good advice from Kevin Keegan (the Newcastle United manager), who told me that I would be mad to do that when I could still play."

"Manchester United have been very fair to me, and I believe that I can perform at this level for a little while yet. I know that I have been written off for the last two years, but I'm still playing, and I believe I'm still playing quite well."

Martin Edwards, the Manchester United chairman and chief executive, has also come to an agreement with Alex Ferguson, his manager, avoiding a potentially divisive row.

Ray Lewington, the Crystal Palace joint first-team coach, may well have signed his own death warrant at the club. Lewington openly criticised Ron Noades, his chairman, after the 0-0 draw against Charlton Athletic on Sunday. Lewington insisted that

Noades should not interfere with team selection policy at Selhurst Park.

It is a predicament that Alan Smith, the former Palace manager, is familiar with, having publicly fallen out with Noades last season and then left — eventually to emerge at Wycombe Wanderers — by grudging mutual consent.

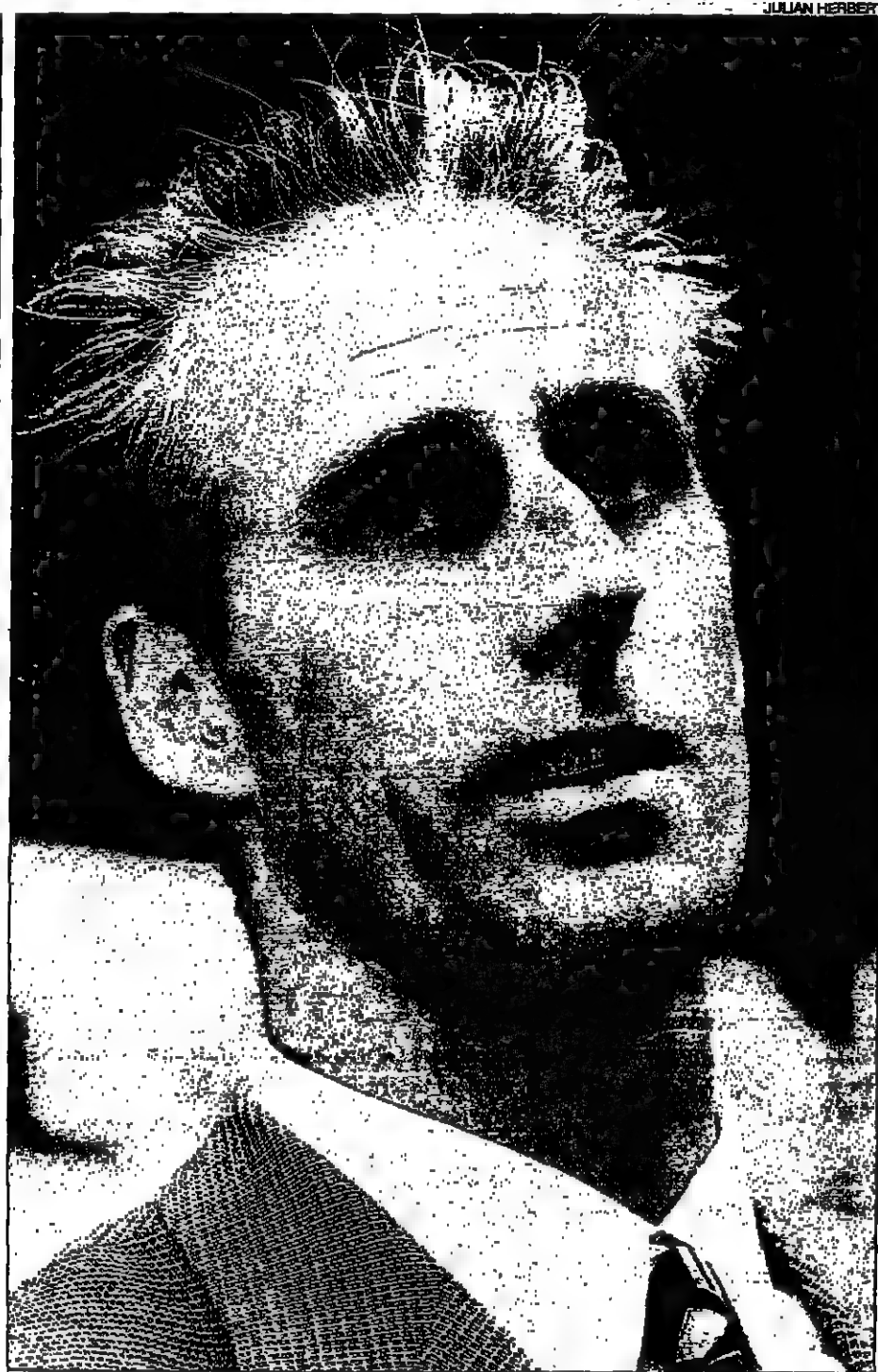
Smith yesterday sympathised with Lewington on a situation that may end in a change of management at the Endleigh Insurance League first division club.

"Ray is a nice fellow, far too nice to work for that bloke," Smith said. "He [Noades] wants Dave Bassett in, that's the bottom line of the whole thing."

Bassett spent three days as manager of Palace in 1984 before changing his mind and returning to Wimbledon. He left Sheffield United by mutual consent in December and has yet to find new employment. Lewington was appointed first-team coach at Palace, with Peter Nicholas, 18 months ago. Coppell was brought back to the club, as technical director, in June.

"I want my team to pass and I want them to play," Lewington said two days ago. "I don't want them to start lumping the ball forward. I'm not going to change."

Port Vale's FA Cup fourth-round replay with Everton, of the FA Carling Premiership, is already in danger of becoming a victim of the cold weather that has captured northern England in its icy grip. Vale Park has no ground covers and the pitch is already frozen.



Mick McCarthy displays the new face of Republic of Ireland football after he was unveiled as their manager at Lansdowne Road yesterday. Report, page 48

## Storm-force effort sees Manchester stay top

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

A CROWD of 12,386, a record for British ice hockey, saw Manchester Storm beat Bracknell Bees 4-2 to maintain their hold on the leadership of the British League first division.

Storm led 2-1 at the end of the first period but two second-period goals from Hilson Ruggles gave them a three-goal cushion. The Bees could score only once in the final period. With Blackburn Hawks beating Telford Tigers 9-7, the Bees lost some ground and, although they are still in third place, they are seven points behind Blackburn and 15 points away from top place.

In the premier division, Cardiff Devils drew within one point of Sheffield Steelers after their 4-4 win over Newcastle Warriors in which Ian Cooper, Randy Smith, Doug Small and Steve Morla each scored twice.

Stough Jets gained a rare win, beating Basingstoke Bison 7-5 with Dan Gratton and Rob Coates each scoring three goals.

The Bison slipped further, behind the leading pack and, if their injured players do not return soon, they may even find themselves struggling to qualify for the championship play-offs. Durham Wasps remain in fourth place and completed a miserable weekend for Fife Flyers, beating them 9-6, with Kip Noble and Kim Isel leading the way by scoring three goals apiece.

Milton Keynes Kings, who have recently shown improved form, lost their way against Huddersfield Hawks and were defeated 3-1 at home.

## SNOW REPORTS

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	L	Piste	Off-p		°C
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AUSTRIA Obertauern	40	80	good	valued (Fresh powder on firm base, excellent skiing)	sun -12 5/2
Saibach	12	35	poor	none (Open, complete runs hardfrozen, others need care to ski)	-5 27/1
St Anton	20	120	fair	valued (Dusting of fresh snow on very varied bases)	icy fine -6 5/2
Schladming	50	70	good	powder (Well-groomed pistes and great skiing everywhere)	lake sun 0 5/2
FRANCE Les Arcs	35	165	good	valued (Very good skiing in falling snow still some rocks)	good snow -8 5/2
Avoriaz	80	120	good	powder (Fresh snow on firm base powder available)	-6 5/2
La Plagne	75	160	good	powder (Excellent powder skiing and pistes greatly improved)	good snow -9 5/2
Tignes	90	145	good	powder (Superb powder skiing fresh snow at all altitudes)	good snow -9 5/2
Val d'Isère	85	150	good	powder (Wonderful powder skiing sunny skies)	good snow -2 5/2
ITALY Cortina	100	300	good	powder (Plenty of powder excellent skiing and sunny skies)	good snow -2 2/2
SWITZERLAND Mürren	15	110	good	magical (Skiing in village but sun shining above 2,300m)	poor sun -5 5/2
St Moritz	40	95	good	valued (Good snow coverage in all areas: downhill superb)	lake sun -5 2/2

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper, art - artificial

## POOLS FORECAST

Saturday February 10	11 Sunderland v P. Kaley	12 Tranmere v Barnet	13 Watford v Oxford	14 WBA v Southampton
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11	15 Bradford v Scunthorpe	16 Hull v Boro	17 Barnet v Crewe	18 Colchester v Stevenage
19 Luton v Walsley	20 Carlisle v Barnet	21 Exeter v Dagenham	22 Grimsby v Leyton	23 Huddersfield v Wigan
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## Levy Board joins attack on fixtures











TUESDAY FEBRUARY 6 1996

Australia receive widespread support for refusal to play match in Sri Lanka

West Indies join  
World Cup stand

By Alan Lee  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

WEST INDIES last night followed Australia's lead by asking for their World Cup match in Sri Lanka to be switched, further undermining the troubled competition that is scheduled to begin next week.

Hours after Australian cricket officials had announced that they would not be sending their team to Colombo, a statement from the West Indies Board of Control revealed that it has requested the World Cup committee to move the match against Sri Lanka, on February 25, away from the island. The inference is that, like Australia, West Indies would rather face the consequences of refusing the fixture than the potential consequences of playing it.

The West Indies squad is at a training camp in Barbados, where some of the players have expressed concerns about going to Colombo. Yesterday morning, having risen to hear the latest developments in Australia and India, the president of the West Indies board, Peter Short, said that the paramount issue was the safety of his players. The board's unambiguous threat to follow the Australians' action was issued yesterday evening.

Pilcom, the joint Pakistan-India-Sri Lanka committee, is now in a fearful mess. Despite Australia's entreaties, Pilcom has declined to countenance switching matches away from Colombo, where 80 people died in a city-centre bombing last week, and must now decide how to handle the decision by two of the leading teams not to play there.

Australia and West Indies may be told that they must forfeit the points from the games concerned, which would, coincidentally, smooth Sri Lanka's path towards a favourable quarter-final. Conceivably, as Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, acknowl-



Taylor answers questions in Sydney, where he expressed his relief at Australia's decision not to play in Colombo

edged yesterday, his team and the West Indies could be disqualified. Much the most rational option, utilising available grounds in India to stage the games, seems to have been sacrificed to stubbornness and political grandstanding. It would take an act of judicious humility by Pilcom to reconsider.

The issues here have little or nothing to do with cricket. Sri

Leading article ..... 19

Lanka's Government is understandably anxious to avoid giving any signals of weakness against terrorism and, to this end, is effectively seeking cricketers as hostages to fortune. Pilcom, already facing barely practicable completion schedules on ground improvements and under constant pressure from the television companies who are making the event prosperous, are equally anxious not to move the furniture at short notice.

These twin motivations brought forth some ripe comments yesterday, none more

striking than those from Lakshman Kadiragamar, the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, after his announcement that the Australians, if they would reconsider their position, could expect the type of security normally only offered to visiting heads of state and would need only to stop in his country for one night.

He was probably wasting his breath but, undeterred, he said: "Great sportsmen are always under constant threat from lunatics and psychopaths. Being a sportsman is not a cakewalk but, eventually, it is the viewing public that matters. You try not to let them down. Despite the Munich massacre, the Australians took part in the Olympics. It must be too much of a courageous act for today's sportsmen to take part in a match in Sri Lanka."

As if this tub-thumping was not enough to alienate further the Australians, Kadiragamar then ridiculed the fears of Shane Warne that he could be a casualty of a bombing while out shopping in Colombo. "Where is the time to shop during a one-day match?" asked the politician, adding scornfully: "Shopping is for cissies."

No one is under greater stress, with the opening ceremony only five days distant, than the convenor of Pilcom,

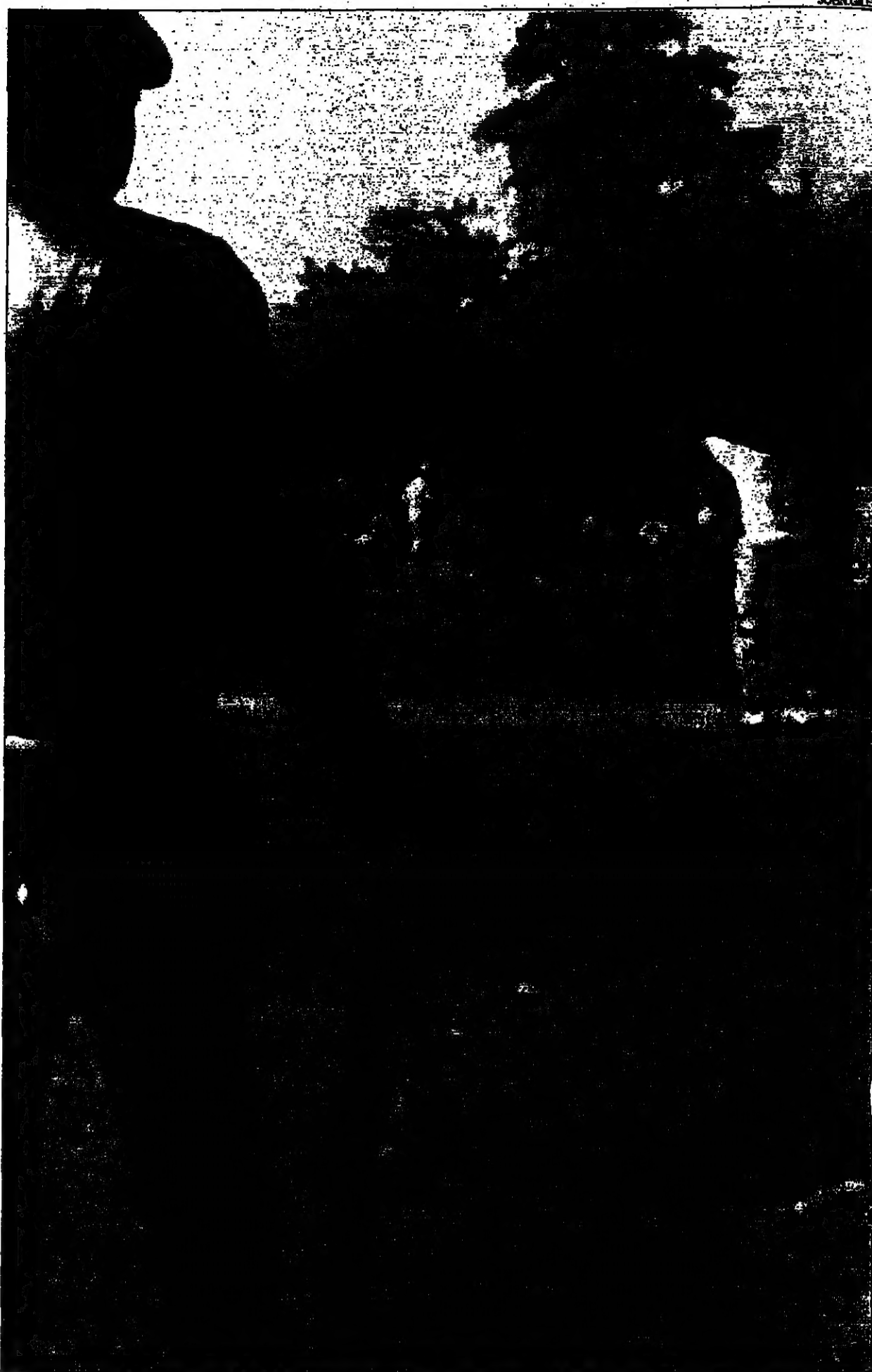
Jagmohan Dalmiya. He is deserving of sympathy, though he may regret his ill-judged comment on the Australian request for a venue switch. "We have considered it carefully," he said, "and the situation does not warrant a change." Given the sensitivities between Australia and Sri Lanka even before the bombing last week, one wonders quite what circumstances Dalmiya would require before agreeing to a change.

The Australian board, while under no illusions about the seriousness of its latest move, cannot be blamed for its caution. Taylor explained: "There was no lobbying of the ACB by the players. The board has made a unanimous decision which took it out of our hands." Taylor admitted to being "relieved", an emotion shared by Warne, who asked "is it worth risking our lives?"

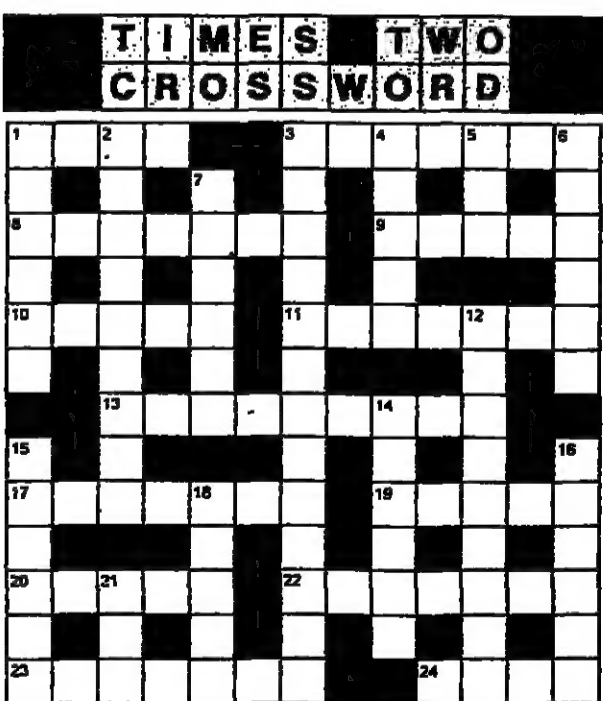
Australia are due to revisit Sri Lanka in August for a three-Test tour but the political unrest would need to have calmed considerably for that series to go ahead. Yesterday, Leicestershire, who had arranged a pre-season trip to Sri Lanka next month, cancelled it, while from Lahore, where England are warming up for the competition, Raymond Illingworth, the team manager, spoke supportively of the Australian stance.

"You have to feel sympathy for what they have done," Illingworth said. "It would have been a difficult situation for us if we had been due to play in Colombo." England do play in some sensitive areas, and in both Peshawar and Karachi they will be heavily guarded and advised not to leave their hotels. However, the assistant manager, John Barclay, said yesterday that he was satisfied with the Pakistani security arrangements.

Indeed, while other countries debate where and whether to play, England's concerns yesterday extended only to where they might take refreshments. Their first game in Pakistan, against the United Arab Emirates on February 18, falls in Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting, and they have been told that, when drinks intervals fall due, they must take them out of public view in the dressing-room.



Tight security is in evidence in Lahore yesterday as England's cricketers begin their World Cup preparations



No 697

ACROSS

- 1 Anger: fashion craze (4)
- 3 (Bland) food (for the mind) (7)
- 8 Conspire: condone (7)
- 9 Holy Cup, offered for (5)
- 10 Cloven (5)
- 11 Long journey (of Ulysses) (7)
- 13 Shocker of a play (9)
- 17 Torpor: oppressive calm (7)
- 19 Ornament: — Regina (hymn) (5)
- 20 Simple job: certainty (5)
- 22 Number symbol (7)
- 23 Prepare for (fencing) attack! (2,5)
- 24 Guessing game (1,3)

DOWN

- 1 Colour prejudice (6)
- 2 Person with manners (9)
- 3 Greater influence, power (13)
- 4 Push-chair (5)
- 5 Meadow (3)
- 6 SE Asian people: sounds like unease (6)
- 7 Beam over door (6)
- 12 Portable weapons (5,4)
- 14 Take for granted (6)
- 15 Trite expression (6)
- 16 Put into battle formation (6)
- 18 Altendant: its house fell (Poe) (5)
- 21 Horse: keep on at (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 646

ACROSS: 5 Reggae 7 Offcut 9 Knee-jerk 11 Helm 12 Riser 13 Pottle 15 Dismal 17 Wrack 19 Snag 20 Fall flat 22 Clever 23 Guinea

DOWN: 1 Broker 2 Fete 3 Brookie 4 Stem 6 Guessimate 8 Crestfallen 10 Jorum 14 Towel 16 Afford 18 Kibbag 19 Sack 21 Lupe

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Housewife's  
choice is  
to conquer  
the world

By Edward Gorman  
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

YOU have to admire the woman's pluck. As she said herself yesterday, at one of the more bizarre press conferences followed by the Whitbread Round the World Race have experienced, she is hardly a renowned international racing sailor. But that is not going to stop Jacky MacGillivray from skipping an entry in yachting's premier racing event this year.

She did not pretend to be anything other than an enthusiastic and very optimistic amateur. "I'm sorry I'm not one of the well-known, high-profile names usually associated with the Whitbread," she told a press conference at the Royal Thames Yacht Club in Knightsbridge, central London, where the Sussex Challenge was formally launched yesterday. "But I am someone with the guts, the determination and, more importantly, the will to win."

"I'm the ordinary average housewife mother-of-two. I woke up one morning and said 'Gosh, it's a nice day — I'll do the Whitbread.'"

Her sailing CV includes an Atlantic crossing with a blind crew and she has more than 500,000 racing and cruising miles under her keel. Among those on board will be her husband, David, whose job, according to briefing documents handed out yesterday, will be to "protect the crew from the skipper", and Maureen Polhill, 45, who has run a hairdressing salon in Worthing for the past seven years.

Ireland seek continuity  
with McCarthy at helm

FROM PETER BALL IN DUBLIN

AFTER weeks of speculation, Mick McCarthy, the Millwall manager, was yesterday confirmed as manager of Ireland in succession to Jack Charlton. His appointment was announced at a press conference here yesterday afternoon.

"Mick had an excellent career, has a superb background, he was a widely experienced player, an experienced manager and we are excited that he has agreed to join with us," Louis Kilcoyne, the president of the Football Association of Ireland (FAI), said. "There is a difficult road ahead, but it's the dawn of a new era for Irish football, and an exciting prospect for Mick."

The announcement was hardly a surprise. As Kilcoyne conceded, several names were discussed initially when the FAI were looking for a manager with a higher profile than McCarthy, but moves for Alex Ferguson, Howard Wilkinson and Joe Royle were blocked by their clubs.

So, ultimately, was a move for Kenny Dalglish, who had widespread support. Although Dave Bassett and Kevin Moran both impressed in a round of interviews, McCarthy, Charlton's captain for most of his 57 caps, was the favourite even before Joe Kinnear withdrew last week. "It's a job I've always wanted and I'm looking forward to it," McCarthy said after being offered the job at his meeting with the FAI executive. "It is an exciting prospect, but it is a bit of a daunting one as well following on the years of success that we've had. But that can't deter me from what I want to do, which is to have a go at it and try to qualify for

the World Cup in France." McCarthy's contract initially ends in two years, taking him up to those World Cup finals. He is under no illusions about the requirements of the job. "If we get to France, they'll probably be talking about me being here for ten years. If we don't, I could be on the next ferry out of Don Laoghaire," he said. McCarthy will, at least, waste no time in taking up his post. Tomorrow he flies to Malta to watch Russia, who will visit Lansdowne Road at the end of March, which is when he will meet his own

Faustino Asprilla's £6.7 million move from Parma to Newcastle United could still go ahead, the Italian club's lawyer said yesterday. Leandro Cantamessa put the problems surrounding the transfer down to "misunderstandings" about the deal and Asprilla's fitness.

squad. Lack of knowledge of his own team, however, should not be too much of a problem.

McCarthy has played with many of them, his last game for Ireland coming in 1992, and since then he has stayed close to the Ireland scene, talking regularly to Charlton. He watched their last two matches under Charlton, the defeats by Portugal and Holland at the end of last year, which brought Charlton's ten years in charge to an untimely end.

Following Charlton, who transformed the status of the game in Ireland as well as that of the national team, is not

easy. Charlton's team qualified for two World Cups and the 1988 European championship, raising expectations possibly beyond realism. McCarthy will have to try to meet them with a team many observers think is in decline. "Some of the players are ageing and I will have to have a talk with them about how they feel. But it is also exciting to find new players and to try to produce a team capable of competing in the way we did," McCarthy said.

One player he is likely to try to persuade to make himself available for Ireland is Chris Armstrong, the Tottenham Hotspur striker. Armstrong is eligible for Ireland because of an Irish grandmother and he had been approached by Charlton a year ago, without success. Yet, as one of McCarthy's former players at Millwall, the manager clearly feels it would be worth having another try.

McCarthy's appointment is, in many ways, a vote for continuity, with some commentators dubbing the Barnsley-born McCarthy "son of Jack". Both are tall, both were uncompromising centre halves from mining backgrounds, but behind the bluff exteriors there are differing philosophies. "I probably had more rows with Jack than anyone," McCarthy said. His approach at Millwall certainly speaks for different views on the game.

Yesterday he suggested that, depending on the players available, he might play with a sweeper, an approach that Charlton would not consider.

Photograph, page 44

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